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## New path forward

After a 5-year absence, ISIS leader al-Baghdadi reemerges with a post-caliphate plan for his group

By JON GAMBRELL AND ZEINA KARAM  
Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — No longer burdened by territory and administration, Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi outlined the new path forward for his group: Widen your reach, connect with far-flung militant groups and exhaust your enemies with a “war of attrition.”

The deadly Easter attacks in Sri Lanka a week before his video appearance underscored that message in blood. It also

Men walk to be screened after being evacuated out of the last territory held by Islamic State militants, near Baghouz, eastern Syria, in February.

FELEKE DANA/AP

highlighted the ease with which ISIS, like al-Qaida before it, can inflict chaos through a loosely defined brand of global jihad in the most chilling way. That’s even after losing the relative safety of its so-called caliphate across stretches of Iraq and Syria.

“Al-Baghdadi was letting his followers know that he was prepared to lead a guerrilla insurgency in Iraq and Syria, while not forgetting that ISIS is a global organization,” said Colin P. Clarke, a senior research fellow at the Soufan Center.

SEE THREAT ON PAGE 5

## US orders carrier group to Middle East in ‘clear and unmistakable’ signal to Iran

By JOSHUA KARSTEN  
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Middle East was meant to “send a clear and unmistakable message to the Iranian regime,” but some analysts said the U.S. could be trying to frame long-planned movements as increased pressure on Tehran.

White House national security adviser John Bolton said Sunday the deployment followed a “num-

ber of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings” from Iran, adding that any attack on U.S. interests would be met with “unrelenting force.”

The announcement came after “clear indications” Iran and Iranian proxy forces were preparing to possibly attack U.S. forces at sea and on land in the region, anonymous officials told The Associated Press on Monday, while declining to provide specifics.

But Bolton’s announcement seems to be a “clever example of reverse-engineering a message

to fit the operational situation,” said Bryan Clark, a Washington-based analyst and senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

“The administration may be trying to increase pressure on Iran’s leaders by characterizing the Lincoln deployment as an action intended to deter unspecified Iranian actions,” Clark said.

Speaking to reporters on a flight to Europe, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the U.S. response had been in the works for a little while but was based on “escalato-

ry actions from the Iranians,” the AP reported. He also said it was not connected to violence in Gaza and Israel on Sunday.

For months, the Trump administration has been ratcheting up pressure on Iran, often prompting threats or other responses from Tehran.

A year ago, President Donald Trump withdrew from the Obama administration’s landmark nuclear deal with Iran, which led to punishing sanctions, the reimposition of including those targeting

SEE IRAN ON PAGE 4

“The administration may be trying to increase pressure on Iran’s leaders by characterizing the Lincoln deployment as an action intended to deter unspecified Iranian actions.”

Bryan Clark  
Center for Strategy and Budgetary Assessments

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Vikings rookie Cutting has Air Force duty to fulfill » Back page

# PACIFIC



HARRISON RAKSHASHI/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Pilot Masahiro Utsumi, also known as Whiskey Papa, races against a car during Friendship Day 2019 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, on Sunday.



JAMES BOLINGER/Stars and Stripes

A Marine poses with visitors during Friendship Day.



A Marine infantryman provides security during a simulated close-air support ordnance drop at the event.

Harrison Rakshashi/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

## All eyes on the skies at Iwakuni Friendship Day

By JAMES BOLINGER  
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — An estimated 165,000 people turned out Sunday for Friendship Day 2019 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, a slightly lower attendance than in years past.

Now in its 43rd year, the event often attracts more than 200,000 visitors. It is still the largest air show in Japan, and long lines of people waited to climb into cockpits for views usually reserved for the pilots of U.S. military and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force aircraft.

Several aircraft types, includ-

ing the Navy's F/A-18 Super Hornet from Carrier Air Wing 5 and a C-17 Globemaster III from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, made their first appearances at Friendship Day, alongside returning acts from Marine Aircraft Group 12, JMSDF Fleet Wing 31 and Pacific Air Force's F-16 Viper Demo Team.

"This is the first year Carrier Air Wing Five aircraft have taken part in the air demonstration, and we look forward to becoming a regular part of this tradition," Capt. Forrest Young, the carrier air wing's commander, said in a statement emailed Sunday.

The Marine Corps' fifth-gen-

eration stealth fighter, the F-35B Lightning II, capable of short takeoffs and vertical landings, was also on display and wowed the audience of aviation enthusiasts with its ability to hover in midair.

Marine Maj. Jeffery Davis, of MCAS Iwakuni's Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, piloted the F-35B during the show and described his view from the cockpit.

"I can see the kids for sure. They are usually really excited when they see me coming, but then they cover their ears or sometimes start crying when I fly by," he said, referencing the deafening noise of the jet's engines.

The pilots of the Air Force C-17, a last-minute addition to the event, showcased the airlifter's ability to take off and land in the same distances as the smaller C-130 Hercules, as well as the giant plane's maneuverability.

Meanwhile, two F/A-18s from Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 242 teamed with a KC-130J Super Hercules from Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 to demonstrate air-to-air refueling operations.

The aircraft then provided simulated close-air support, complete with controlled explosions, while a V-22 Osprey inserted a Marine infantry squad onto the airfield

as part of the Marine Air Ground Task Force demonstration.

"Flying the Osprey is the best of both worlds. It can be a chopper or an airplane," said Marine Capt. Jerome Miller, who piloted the aircraft from Okinawa's Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 during the demonstration.

The Air Force's F-16 Viper Demo team performed twice during the event, even breaking the sound barrier on one high-speed pass.

The multirole fighter can reach Mach 2 — 1,500 mph — at altitude and is highly maneuverable.

bolinger.james@stripes.com  
Twitter: @bolingerj2004

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## MILITARY

# China tops agenda in Arctic security talks

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — China's Arctic ambitions are expected to dominate the discussion later this week when U.S. military leaders convene with partners for security talks in Greenland, an economically vulnerable land where China is working to gain a foothold.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo set the stage for the Greenland meeting when he warned China and Russia on Monday that the U.S. will not tolerate any unilateral or aggressive moves in the Arctic region.

China's "economic charm offensive" in the high North and beyond is underway in Europe with investments in a network of ports and mines as it lays groundwork that could pose a long-term threat, U.S. military officials say.

"China is not a military threat to Europe right now, but if we are not careful about how we look at where and how they are investing, they become a very significant national security threat in the future that we may not be able to combat," a U.S. European Command official said on condition of anonymity ahead of the security talks in Greenland.

On Wednesday, U.S. military officials and those from 10 other countries that make up the Arctic Security Forces Roundtable will meet in Greenland for two days.

"One of our main topics this year is China's influence in the Arctic," the EUCOM official said.

The focus is the latest sign of how security strategy in Europe is increasingly about more than Russia. In recent months, the U.S. has intensified pressure on allies in Europe to avoid China's Huawei 5G telecom infrastructure, which American officials say poses a threat and would force Washington to cease certain information sharing.

## China's economic expansion

For Washington, the concern is that China's push could, over time, turn into leverage against U.S. military interests.

"They can get into and influence national security in a way that doesn't appear



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

**The fast-attack submarine USS Seawolf is submerged after surfacing through the arctic ice on July 30, 2015. U.S. military officials will hold talks this week in Greenland about security in the arctic.**

threatening," the EUCOM official said. "They are offering obviously economic means for infrastructure — it is expensive to build in the Arctic."

Greenland, home to the U.S.' Thule Air Force Base, is an autonomous country, but Denmark controls its defense and foreign policy. That hasn't stopped Beijing from making economic inroads. For example, China has bought rights to long out-of-use mines in the country.

"Greenland is a place that we have a pretty strong eye on," the EUCOM official said. "Why is China buying a mine that hasn't been productive in 30 years. What is the point in China purchasing that mine?"

Last year, Beijing also had its eyes on an airport expansion project in Greenland, a move that was eventually blocked by Copenhagen because of security concerns.

"This gives us great pause," EUCOM's Gen. Tod Wolters said in April regarding China's maneuvering in Greenland.

While Russia's Arctic ambitions have long been the main area of concern among the U.S. and its allies, there are signs that China's economic heft could pose a long-term challenge. Even though it doesn't border the Arctic, China's recent military white paper outlined how Beijing sees itself as an Arctic player with ambitions for a "Polar Silk Road."

The term is a reference not only to the ancient trade route connecting the Far East to Europe and Africa but to China's modern Belt and Road Initiative, a key element of Beijing's foreign policy aimed at building infrastructure — and influence — in dozens of countries around the world.

China's interest in the Arctic comes as polar ice in the region melts, potentially opening new shipping lanes for merchants in the years ahead and increasing access to natural resources.

China says it has "rights in respect of scientific research, navigation, overflight, fishing, laying of submarine cables and pipelines in the high seas and other relevant sea areas in the Arctic Ocean." It also has "rights to resource exploration and exploitation," China's 2018 Arctic policy states.

The military roundtable in Greenland this week coincides with a meeting in Finland on Tuesday of the Arctic Council, a government forum of eight Arctic nations: the U.S., Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Russia.

## Avoiding militarization

Speaking ahead of the meeting in Finland, Pompeo criticized both China and Russia for what he said were coercive

practices that could destabilize the "high North." The Associated Press reported.

"China's pattern of aggressive behavior elsewhere will inform how it treats the Arctic," he said, noting its increasing assertiveness in the South China Sea. "Do we want the Arctic Ocean to transform into a new South China Sea, fraught with military militarization and competing territorial claims?"

During talks in Finland, the U.S. should "raise awareness of China's questionable ambitions," The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank with influence in the Trump administration, said in a report ahead of the Arctic talks.

While the Arctic Council is mainly focused on economic matters, China's description of itself as a "near-Arctic state" deserves high-level attention, the report said.

"The U.S. should work with like-minded partners in the Arctic Council to raise legitimate concerns about China's so-called Polar Silk Road ambitions," The Heritage Foundation report said. "The U.S. should also make sure that China does not try to exceed what is allowed of it by its status as an observer in the Arctic Council."

EUCOM officials declined to detail all of China's holdings in Europe, but Beijing has a stake in at least 15 ports, which handle the flow of more than 10% of the Continent's shipping container traffic, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The acquisitions are part of a worldwide infrastructure push to connect Beijing to global markets.

The kind of moves EUCOM worries about in the Arctic have already happened in southern Europe. In 2010, China began buying stakes in the Greek port of Piraeus and now has full control of the strategic Mediterranean port. About 20 million passengers now pass through Piraeus each year, making it "the fastest-growing port in the world," according to PortsEurope, a trade publication that examines industry developments.

"If we want to pull a ship, a warship, into Piraeus, China can say no," the EUCOM official said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver

# Survey: US Marines are welcome in Australia's Northern Territory

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

A recent survey suggests U.S. Marines are being welcomed with open arms by residents of Australia's Northern Territory.

There's been a steady buildup of Marines in Darwin, Australia, since 2012.

On May 1, with the Marines' rotational force poised to reach its target of 2,500 troops, the Australian government released a report showing that Darwin leaders and residents have a generally positive view of the U.S. military presence.

Auditing firm KPMG's "US Force Posture Initiatives (USFPI) Social and Economic Impact Study" involved a telephone survey of 13,408 locals and meetings with 27 key representatives from business, government

and the community.

It shows 51% of people there have positive feelings about the U.S. troops, with only 6% responding negatively.

In Darwin, a majority of the public and key stakeholders believe that safety concerns that may have existed following the original announcement of the Marine rotations haven't been borne out, the KPMG report states.

The survey results show 47% of respondents actually feel safer as a result of the U.S. military presence, with only 6% feeling less safe.

That's a contrast with Okinawa, Japan, for example, where criminal behavior periodically works against the U.S. cause, as was the case on April 13, when a U.S. Marine or apparently fatally stabbed a Japanese woman and then killed

himself, according to Japan's Foreign Ministry.

Noise complaints are a common occurrence near U.S. bases in Japan but that's not, it seems, much of an issue in the Northern Territory.

"While close to a third (32%) of phone survey respondents believe that noise levels have increased as a result of the U.S. military presence, 64% disagree, suggesting that noise issues are localized. Neither key stakeholders nor the public expressed particular concern regarding impacts on the natural environment," the KPMG report states.

Australia's northernmost large city is close to a region that's of increasing strategic importance to military planners.

Southeast Asia encompasses developing nations that are



JORDAN GILBERT/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

**U.S. Marines arrive in Australia on April 12. A majority in Australia's Northern Territory welcome the Marines' presence, a survey found.**

hottbeds of Islamic extremism. Meanwhile, the waters of the South China Sea are the subject of territorial disputes between China and its neighbors.

The Northern Territory, at 548,640 square miles, is smaller than Alaska but more than twice the size of Texas. Its population is fewer than 250,000 inhabitants.

The KPMG report states that the Northern Territory supports 5,965 Australian and U.S. military personnel. Most U.S. troops work on Australian Defence Force facilities at RAAF Darwin and Robertson Barracks.

Seventy-seven percent of the

Darwin residents feel that U.S. forces have brought benefits to the local economy, according to the survey results.

The military injects \$700 million annually into the Northern Territory economy, according to the KPMG report.

"In addition to this sustained contribution, there will be an additional, short-term boost to the economy with a significant capital works program commencing in 2020," according to an Australian Defence Department statement.

robson.seth@stripes.com  
Twitter: @SethRobson1



## WAR/MILITARY



Illustration courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

During tests last month in New Mexico, the Demonstrator Laser Weapon System shot down several air-launched missiles in flight.

# In tests, SHiELD laser shoots down missiles

By BRIAN FERGUSON  
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force said it successfully shot missiles out of the sky with a ground-based laser system that it plans to make small enough to fit on its aircraft.

The Self-Protect Advanced Energy Laser Demonstrator Advanced Technology Demonstration Program, or SHiELD, conducted the tests on April 23, an Air Force Research Laboratory statement said Friday.

"The successful test is a big step ahead for directed energy systems and protection against adversarial threats," said Maj. Gen. William Cooley, AFRL commander. "The ability to shoot down missiles with speed-of-light technology will enable air operation in denied environments."

During the tests at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., the missile system engaged and shot down multiple air-launched missiles in flight. It was not immediately clear whether the laser system shot down the targets one after

the other or if they were downed individually in separate tests.

The SHiELD program began in 2017.

The Air Force said last year that it intends to reduce the size and weight of the SHiELD system by 2021 for placement on supersonic aircraft, which could include fighter jets and the B-1 bomber. Plans call for the laser to be mounted as a pod under the wings or the fuselage to defend against surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles.

The Air Force has also looked at testing a laser on a refueling tanker and special operators have shown interest in arming the AC-130 gunship with an air-to-ground laser, service officials told the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News last year.

The Navy has also tested a laser on a warship in the Persian Gulf to defend against drones and small boats, with plans to expand directed-energy weapon use in the fleet in the next decade.

ferguson.brian@stripes.com

# Report advocates forcing Russia to spend more

By SCOTT WYLAND  
Stars and Stripes

The United States should pull a page from the Cold War playbook and drive Russia to spend money in a tit-for-tat power game that its smaller economy can't support, a think tank said in a recent study.

The tank can exploit factors that are making Russia more vulnerable, such as economic sanctions, fuel prices falling below peak levels, an aging population and increasing authoritarianism under President Vladimir Putin, Rand Corp. said in the report. However, it also urged caution with ventures that could provoke Moscow.

The U.S. should fund operations with the secondary aim of unsettling Russia and diverting it to less-threatening pursuits that deplete its coffers, said the Rand report, titled "Overextending and Unbalancing Russia."

"Such cost-imposing options could place new burdens on Russia — ideally heavier burdens than would be imposed on the United States for pursuing those options," Rand said.

The U.S. outpacing Moscow in military spending is often credited in part with causing the Soviet empire to collapse. Rand doesn't recommend provoking Russia into a Cold War-sized arms race.

Instead, the report gives a

list of operations the U.S. could fund, from military to political to economic.

Russia's military intervention in Ukraine and annexation of Crimea five years ago altered how Washington and its allies view the security landscape in Europe. Since then, the U.S.-led NATO alliance has grappled with how to best counter Russia, largely focusing on putting more troops in Eastern Europe for defensive purposes.

The report says providing more lethal aid to Ukraine could cause Russia to funnel more money to its current operations and risks escalating tensions.

Expanding U.S. energy production to nudge out Russia in global markets, on the other hand, was rated as a low-risk, high-yield pursuit. It would put stress on Russia's economy, forcing Moscow to curtail defense spending, while benefiting the U.S. economy, Rand said.

Moving more NATO troops near Russian borders and holding larger NATO exercises there won't push Russia to expand its presence in these areas, and if done aggressively runs a high risk of provoking a conflict, Rand said.

An effective tactic would be to move bombers within easy striking range of key Russian targets, which would raise Moscow's anx-

ieties. The bombers would be safe if they stay out of range of Russian ballistic and ground-based cruise missiles, Rand said.

Beefing up naval presence by the U.S. and its allies and expanding electronic warfare capabilities have a good chance of forcing Russia to extend itself on those areas.

Another measure would be investing more in weaponry, such as Army tactical missile systems, long-range anti-radiation missiles and drones, Rand said. That would prompt Russia to spend significantly on countermeasures.

Every move must be weighed carefully so the U.S. doesn't deplete itself in its effort to overextend Russia, the report said.

"Although Russia will bear the cost of this increased competition less easily than the United States will, both sides will have to divert national resources from other purposes," Rand said.

In April, a Stockholm International Peace Research Institute report said that Russia's annual defense spending had decreased by 3.5% last year to \$61.5 billion, which ranked sixth in global military expenditures. The United States spent \$649 billion on its armed forces, which was nearly equal to the next eight nations combined, SIPRI said.

wyland.scott@stripes.com  
Twitter: @wylandstripes

# Measles case at Tokyo airport spurs warning from USFJ

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ  
Stars and Stripes

Anyone who traveled through Terminal 2 at Narita International Airport in Tokyo on April 22, 24 or 26 and is not vaccinated against measles should get to their primary care provider or local immunization clinic, according to a Facebook post by U.S. Forces Japan.

An airport employee may have exposed travelers to the disease on those days, the Wednesday message said. American Forces Network Pacific is running a similar public service announcement. So far, however, so good.

"There have been no confirmed cases on U.S. bases," Capt. Michel Baline, an Air Force public health officer at Yokota Air Base, Japan, told Stars and Stripes on

Monday.

Children older than 4 and adults who are up-to-date with their two documented measles, mumps and rubella, or MRR, vaccinations are protected from any potential threat, according to the Facebook post.

"Even in rare occurrences like this it just goes to show how important it is to assure you and your children are vaccinated," Amanda

Gutierrez, a family member at Yokosuka Naval Base, said in an interview with Stars and Stripes on Monday. "It only takes one rare occurrence to be faced with a potentially deadly threat."

Measles is a highly contagious infectious disease that is spread by person-to-person contact or by an infected person through coughing and sneezing.

"Active-duty troops are sup-

posed to be inoculated; we're at 99.9 percent in Japan," said Lt. Col. Kenji Takano, an Air Force public health emergency officer at Yokota. "Dependents should be inoculated, but they're not held to the active-duty standard. This is an opportunity to check your vaccination status."

lopez.christian@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CLopez\_Stripes

# Iran: Analyst says Bolton could be responding to Iran's new designation for GIs

## FROM FRONT PAGE

Iran's oil, shipping and banking sectors.

Last month, the administration announced that the U.S. will no longer exempt any countries from U.S. sanctions if they continue to buy Iranian oil. The waivers for those sanctions expired Friday, the AP reported.

Tehran, meanwhile, has said it is poised to restart its nuclear program and, in response to the end of the waivers, has threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz — the only passage between the Persian Gulf and the ocean.

Still, the deployment of a carrier to the U.S. Central Command area isn't unusual and was likely routine and long-planned, Ilan Goldenberg, Middle East director at the Washington-based think tank Center for a New Security, said on Twitter on Monday.

"The inflammatory language from Bolton is unusual/provocative but my guess is just an opportunity to try to intimidate the Iranians," Goldenberg said.

The region has been said a U.S. carrier since the USS John C. Stennis left early last month.

Though the Navy did not an-

nounce a route for the scheduled deployment of the Lincoln when it departed its homeport in Virginia last month, the ship was expected to circumnavigate the globe en route to its new homeport of San Diego, The Virginian-Pilot reported at the time.

While it may have already had plans to transit the Middle East, that does not mean the Iranian threat is not real, Clark said by email. Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps recently changed leadership, and the successor to longtime commander Mohammad Ali Jafari, whose tenure last-

ed 11 years, may want to make a statement with aggression to act as against U.S. forces, Clark said.

"Alternatively, Bolton may want to test the new commander by characterizing the Lincoln deployment as being specifically about Iran," he said.

Bolton's comments about a bomber force suggest land-based aircraft in the region, but officials at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar referred comment back to Washington. B-1 Lancers deployed to Qatar returned home to Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, leaving the Middle East without a bomb-

er presence, Air Force Magazine reported in late March.

Bolton could be responding to another recent escalation — Iran's recent designation of all U.S. military personnel stationed in the Middle East as terrorists — said Mahmoud Abdulghaffar, a research analyst for Derasat, Bahrain's Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies. Tehran was responding to the U.S. designation last month of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist group.

karsten.joshua@stripes.com  
Twitter: @joshua\_karsten



## WAR ON TERRORISM

# Afghan official says Taliban storm checkpoint, killing 20

By AMIR SHAH  
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban stormed an army checkpoint in Afghanistan's western Farah province, killing 20 soldiers and abducting two, the latest in relentless attacks that the insurgents carry out even as they negotiate with the U.S. about ending the war, Afghan officials said Monday.

The attack also dashed hopes of some sort of truce during the holy month of Ramadan, which started Monday and when observant Muslims fast from dawn to dusk.

The overnight attack on the checkpoint in Farah province's

Gulistan district triggered an hourlong gunbattle as Afghan troops tried to repel the attackers. The fate of the abducted soldiers was not immediately known, said provincial councilman Dadullah Qaneh.

Cole. Qais Mangal, spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of Defense, later confirmed the attack but could not give precise casualty figures.

"I can confirm that an army checkpoint has been attacked and there are casualties among soldiers," he said, adding that reinforcements have been dispatched to the area.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi claimed responsi-

bility for the attack.

The Taliban still carry out near-daily attacks on Afghan forces, even as peace efforts have accelerated to find an end to Afghanistan's nearly 17-year war.

On Sunday, the Taliban set off a suicide car bombing and stormed a police headquarters in northern Baghlan province, killing 13 policemen and setting off a six-hour gunbattle. The Interior Ministry said 55 people, including 20 civilians, were wounded before the attackers were all killed.

Last week, an Afghan grand council convened by President Ashraf Ghani called for peace with the Taliban as the president promised to free 175 Taliban pris-



RAHMAT GUL/AP

**An Afghan family prays on the first day of the holy month of Ramadan as they prepare to break their fast in Kabul on Monday. A Taliban attack dashed hopes of a truce during the holy observance.**

oners ahead of Ramadan.

But the Taliban on Friday rejected a cease-fire during Ramadan, saying their attacks will continue though the fighters will be "very careful of civilians during any operation."

The insurgents have in the

past rejected cease-fire proposals, saying U.S. and NATO troops must withdraw from the country first.

The Taliban also refuse to negotiate directly with the government in Kabul, seeing it as a U.S. puppet.



SYRIAN CIVIL DEFENSE WHITE HELMETS/AP

**Smoke rises after Syrian government and Russian airstrikes hit the town of al-Habeel, southern Idlib, in Syria on Friday. On Monday, Syrian troops captured strategic ground in the country's northwest.**

## Syrian troops advance on insurgents in northwest

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian troops captured a village and a strategic hill from insurgents in the country's northwest on Monday amid the heaviest fighting to hit the region in eight months, pro-government media said.

The government-controlled Syrian Central Military Media said the village of al-Bani and nearby Othman hill in the northern countryside of Hama province were taken.

This was the deepest push by forces allied with Damascus so far this year into Syria's last major rebel stronghold. The latest wave of violence, which began April 30, has raised fears the government may launch a wider offensive to retake the area, which contains about 3 million people.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition-linked war monitor, confirmed that al-Bani had been captured and that troops were

marching toward the hill. The Observatory said the intense fighting on Monday killed 20 people.

Jaish al-Ezzat, a main rebel group in northwestern Syria, said it destroyed a Syrian army tank and that all the soldiers inside were killed. The group spoke of "fierce clashes" near al-Bani.

The latest round of fighting has killed dozens and displaced tens of thousands in Idlib and nearby rebel-held areas who fled to safer regions farther north. It's the worst violence since September, when Russia and Turkey reached a cease-fire that averted a government offensive on Idlib and surrounding areas.

The Observatory reported more than 60 Russian airstrikes on insurgents Monday alone.

Syria's state news agency, SANA, reported that Syrian troops intensified their shelling of insurgents in northern parts of Hama province and the southern parts of Idlib.

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Though he was disheveled and never standing up in the video released April 29, al-Baghdadi's appearance contradicted past Russian and Iraqi claims the militant leader had been killed during the long war targeting the militants. It was the first time he has appeared in public since June 29, 2014, when he delivered a sermon from the pulpit of Mosul's Great Mosque of al-Nuri.

The contrasts in the appearances are glaring.

In 2014, he wore an expensive-looking watch and a neatly trimmed beard and urged Muslims around the world to swear allegiance to the group's self-proclaimed caliphate and obey him as its leader.

In the latest video, he sat on the floor, with an AK-47 assault rifle at his side like the one Osama bin Laden took in Afghanistan during the mujahedeen's fight against the Soviets and always carried with him. He had a big bushy beard and wore a black tunic and a military-style beige vest over it.

No longer an administrator, al-Baghdadi wants to be seen as an insurgent leader. Analysts say that both roles gloss over the loss of territory the militants claimed would spark an apocalyptic confrontation with the "crusader" West and ensures he maintains his status in the extremist world.

"We believe it is really an attempt to divert attention from the core group's heavy losses and to ensure that the franchise groups and grassroots supporters remain loyal to the ISIS pole of the jihadi universe," the Austin, Texas-based private intelligence firm Stratfor said in an analysis.

"Many are saying that the video is a show of strength, but we believe it is more likely an act of desperation."

The loss of its territory cuts both ways, however. Foreign militants once part of the "caliphate" now have scattered, like they did at the end of the 1980s war against the Soviets in Afghanistan and after the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that toppled the Taliban government sheltering al-Qaida.

Al-Baghdadi barely mentioned Iraq and Syria in the 18-minute video except to praise the steadfastness of his fighters there. Instead, he congratulated militants in Libya and "brothers" in Burkina Faso, Mali, Pakistan and the Western Sahara for pledging allegiance.

The group also recently claimed numerous attacks around the world, including in Saudi Arabia, Congo and Libya. Jihadist propaganda by ISIS supporters online recently threatened India and Bangladesh, where ISIS claimed an attack for the first time in some two years last week.

Sri Lanka police late Wednesday made public the names and photographs of nine suicide bombers who carried out the series of Easter Day explosions, including the locations where their bombs were detonated.

The list of eight men and one woman included the man officials said led the attack, extremist preacher Mohamed Zahran, also known as Zahran Hashim, who was one of two attackers at Colombo's Shangri-La Hotel. The woman who was identified was the wife of another bomber who triggered an explosion in front of her children at her spice trader father-in-law's Colombo villa, killing herself and three police officers investigating the earlier near-simultaneous blasts at three churches and three hotels.

While some ISIS claims of late have been exaggerated or outright bogus, its focus on expand-

ing outward follows the same pattern of al-Qaida, which grew to have dangerous franchises in areas like Yemen. "This is part of the vengeance that awaits the crusaders and their henchmen," al-Baghdadi said in the video.

He extolled militants in Sri Lanka for "striking the homes of the crusaders in their Easter, in vengeance for their brothers in Baghuz," a reference to ISIS' last bastion in eastern Syria, which was captured by U.S.-backed fighters in March. The militants involved in the attacks that killed more than 250 people followed a local extremist leader, but more than 30 Sri Lankans are believed to have once been ISIS fighters in Syria and Iraq.

"It is still unclear if any of the Sri Lanka terrorists had fought for ISIS in Syria and Iraq and were returnees, or if they were locally trained and linked up with ISIS online," an analysis from the Asia-Pacific Foundation said. "What we are witnessing has been an evolving terrorist dynamic where an attack is developed and conceived abroad but that local radicals are recruited to implement the final stage."

Simply put, the new threat from ISIS is a lot like the old threat, except the group doesn't have a home address anymore. For years, the group's leaders huddled in ISIS-held cities in Iraq and Syria to plot attacks abroad even as they terrorized residents at home.

Now, mass casualty assaults like the 2015 attacks on the Bataclan theater in Paris may be planned much closer to local militants' homes, like the Easter attack in Sri Lanka. One of the churches hit was in a town from where the alleged leader of the assault preached his extremist message.

## NATION

# Dems set contempt vote for Barr over report

By MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler on Monday scheduled a vote this week to hold Attorney General William Barr in contempt of Congress, escalating the battle between the Democratic House and President Donald Trump over special counsel Robert Mueller's report.

Nadler is proposing to hold Barr in contempt after the Justice Department declined to provide the committee with a full, unredacted version of special counsel Mueller's report on Trump and Russia. The committee had given Barr until 9 a.m. Monday to comply.

"Congress must see the full report and underlying evidence to determine how to best move forward with oversight, legislation, and other constitutional responsibilities," Nadler said in a statement.

The department has provided a redacted version, which Nadler said offered "disturbing evidence and analysis that President Trump engaged in obstruction of justice at the highest levels." He said Barr's failure to comply with the subpoena for the full report



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

**House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., joined at right by Rep. Doug Collins, R-Georgia, waits to start a hearing Thursday on the Mueller report without witness Attorney General William Barr who refused to appear. Nadler has scheduled a vote to hold Barr in contempt of Congress.**

"leaves us no choice but to initiate contempt proceedings."

The top Republican on the committee, Rep. Doug Collins, of Georgia, said, "Democrats have launched a proxy war smearing the attorney general when their anger actually lies with the president and the special counsel, who found neither conspiracy nor

obstruction."

Collins said the upcoming vote is "illogical and disingenuous" as negotiations are underway with the Justice Department for access.

The resolution to be voted on Wednesday says, "William P. Barr, the Attorney General of the United States, shall be found to be

in contempt of Congress for failure to comply with a congressional subpoena." Barr's failure to comply "has hindered the Committee's constitutional, oversight and legislative functions," it says.

Proceedings could be postponed if the attorney general makes a "good faith" effort to comply with the committee, Nadler said. But

that appears unlikely.

While a contempt vote would send a message, it wouldn't force the Justice Department to hand over the report. Nor would it guarantee criminal charges against Barr.

The full House would need to approve it, which would send a criminal referral to the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, a Justice Department official who is likely to defend the attorney general.

Still, Democratic House leaders have signaled they will methodically take advantage of all the legal steps available. They could also file a civil lawsuit against the Justice Department — an option that could take months or even years to resolve. Some members of the committee have suggested they also could fine Barr as he withholds the information.

"The committee is prepared to make every realistic effort to reach an accommodation with the department," Nadler wrote to Barr on Friday. "But if the department persists in its baseless refusal to comply with a validly issued subpoena, the committee will move to contempt proceedings and seek further legal recourse."

## Ex-translator charged after he's heard on intercepted calls

By MATTHEW BARAKAT

Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Federal authorities have charged a former FBI translator with making false statements after they say he altered transcripts of calls in which his own voice was caught on intercepts with a terrorism suspect.

Abdirizak Jaji Raghe Wehlie, 66, of Burke, Va., was arrested Saturday at an airport after returning to the U.S. on an international flight, according to Josh

Stueve, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia.

The former contract translator for the bureau faced an initial appearance Monday afternoon in federal court in Alexandria on seven counts of making false statements as well as one count of obstructing a federal investigation.

An indictment unsealed Monday states that Wehlie worked as a contractor for the FBI from 2012 to 2015. In December 2012, a man targeted by the FBI in an investigation connected to the Al-Shabab terrorist

group in Somalia called and left a voicemail message for Wehlie.

The call was intercepted under court-ordered surveillance, and Wehlie was tasked the next day with translating the call. He marked himself down as "unidentified male" even though the voicemail message on Wehlie's cellphone identified him as "Abdirizak Wehlie."

The FBI questioned Wehlie about his actions in 2016. At the time, according to the indictment, Wehlie admitted that he should not have identified himself as an

"unidentified male" on that translation. He also told FBI agents that he had never actually had a phone conversation with the person who called him and that he didn't know the person very well.

A subsequent FBI investigation revealed that the two had nearly 180 phone contacts from 2010 to 2017.

The FBI employed Wehlie as a contractor even though his adult children had been placed on the no-fly list and denied reentry to the U.S. for several weeks in 2010.

## Biden's strength as Dems' candidate is fueled by perception of his electability

By STEVE PEOPLES

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Twenty of his rivals have lined up to run for president, believing the race for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination was wide open. But one week after launching his campaign, former Vice President Joe Biden is threatening to prove them wrong.

His liabilities may be glaring, but the 76-year-old lifelong politician has quickly emerged as the front-runner in the crowded contest by dominating the debate that matters most to many voters: electability.

Biden's chief opponents privately concede that, for now at least, he has successfully cast himself as the candidate who can take

down President Donald Trump.

He may be out of step with the heart of the party on key issues, but Biden opens the race backed by a broad coalition of voters attracted to his personality, his governing experience and his working-class background — all elements that help convince voters he is better positioned than any other Democrat to deny Trump a second term.

One after another, voters who filled a community center in South Carolina's capital to see Biden this past weekend described him as a safe, comforting and competent counterpoint to the turbulent Trump presidency.

"With him, you feel whole, and the country would be whole again," said Barbara Pearson, 62, who is black and has long worked

for county government. "I think he meets this moment."

"I like Biden," said University of South Carolina senior Justin Walker, 21, who is white. "We know him. We know where he's been."

"We don't know that about the others."

Biden's strong start, evidenced by strong fundraising and polling, has caught the attention of his opponents. Sens. Bernie Sanders, of Vermont, and Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts, have already begun to run on Biden, at least subtly, highlighting his reliance on rich donors and his record on trade, foreign policy and health care that is out of step with the party's more liberal wing.

In the midst of his inaugural national tour as a 2020 presiden-



CHARLIE NEUBERG/ALP

**Former Vice President Joe Biden holds a rally in Iowa City, Iowa, on Wednesday. His perceived electability has made him an early front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination.**

tial contender, Biden is largely ignoring his Democratic opponents and focusing on Trump.

So far, at least, the message appears to be resonating.

Polls by CNN and Quinnipiac University over the last week show Biden with significant ad-

vantages among whites and non-whites, those over and under 50 years old, noncollege graduates and college graduates, those who make more and those who make less than \$50,000 each year, and both moderate and liberal Democrats.

## NATION

# Trump taps ex-border patrol chief as ICE director

By CATHERINE LUCEY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's latest choice to lead U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is a former border patrol chief under the Obama administration who has publicly backed the president's border wall.

Trump tweeted on Sunday that Mark Morgan "will be joining the Trump Administration as the head of our hard working men and women of ICE." He added: "Mark is a true believer and American Patriot. He will do a great job!"

The president tweeted later that Matt Albence will continue to serve as acting director until Morgan's confirmation by the Senate.

The announcement follows a shake-up at the Department of Homeland Security triggered by



CURT OWEN/AP

**Former U.S. Border Patrol chief Mark Morgan, shown testifying before a Senate committee in Washington in April, has been selected by President Donald Trump to lead U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.**

the president's frustration with the increasing number of mi-

grants at the border. The shake-up started last month, when

Trump withdrew Ron Vitiello's nomination to lead ICE midway through the confirmation process. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen then resigned, along with Undersecretary for Management Claire Grady, who was in line to be her successor.

Morgan, who was named the head of the U.S. Border Patrol in 2016, was ousted early in Trump's presidency. It was not immediately clear if he had been formally nominated for the new role.

Acting DHS Secretary Kevin McAleenan said in a statement that Morgan's "record of service is needed to address the crisis at the border and support the men and women of Immigration and Customs Enforcement."

A former FBI agent, Morgan was the first and so far the only outsider to lead the Border Patrol. He clashed with its union, which

has a strong relationship with Trump.

Since he left, he has defended Trump's immigration policies on Fox News and publicly declared earlier this year his support for Trump's efforts to build a wall along the southern border.

In April, Trump made his appreciation known, tweeting: "Mark Morgan, President Obama's Border Patrol Chief, gave the following message to me: 'President Trump, stay the course.' I agree, and believe it or not, we are making great progress with a system that has been broken for many years!"

ICE is the agency tasked with enforcing immigration law in the interior of the U.S. Part of ICE's mission is to arrest immigrants in the U.S. illegally, which has made it a symbol of Trump's hard-line immigration policies.

## Miss. police search for killer of Biloxi officer

Associated Press

BILOXI, Miss. — A gunman who fatally shot a uniformed officer outside the Biloxi police station remained on the run Monday, the subject of an intense manhunt along Mississippi's Gulf Coast.

It's unclear what prompted the killing of Officer Robert McKeithen, a 23-year veteran of the Biloxi Police Department who had



McKeithen

been scheduled to retire this year. Biloxi police Chief John Miller said police don't know if he was targeted or the victim of a random act.

"The animal that did this is still on the run," Miller told reporters Monday morning. "We're going to do everything within our power to bring him to justice for Robert and his family."

Authorities say the man approached McKeithen in the station's parking lot on Sunday night and shot him multiple times, either before or after coming inside the station.

Authorities released images

taken from a surveillance camera inside the station showing a suspect wearing navy blue shorts, a black T-shirt, a red beanie cap and dark high-top sneakers. Miller said the man came inside "at one point," and "seemed a bit nonchalant" as he walked around.

Authorities withheld details of the shooting, but Miller said that "with all of Robert's training, I don't know that there was anything else he could have done."

McKeithen was rushed to a nearby hospital emergency room, where he was pronounced dead.

Within two minutes, other officers set up "a pretty intense perimeter" but the gunman remained at large hours later, Miller said.

Officials pleaded for the public to identify the suspect, offering a \$5,000 award is being said.

The news conference was held on the steps of Biloxi's police headquarters, and Miller gestured at one point toward the crime scene, around McKeithen's patrol SUV. He said his officer was "murdered last night right here in our parking lot."

Miller turned the case over to the neighboring Gulfport Police Department, saying it's better to have an outside agency investigate the killing of one of Biloxi's officers. Gulfport Police Chief



JUSTIN MITCHELL, THE (GULFPORT, MISS.) SUN HERALD/AP

**Biloxi Police Chief John Miller places flowers and a card on the police SUV of Officer Robert McKeithen in Biloxi, Miss., on Monday. McKeithen was killed in the line of duty outside the Biloxi Police Department on Sunday night. A manhunt is underway to find the suspect.**

Leonard Papania promised an "around-the-clock" investigation.

"Everyone is concerned," Papania said. "Anytime you have this kind of a deliberate and violent attack on a police officer, especially right in front of a police station, it should cause everybody great concern."

Harrison County Sheriff Troy Peterson and the local district attorney are also assisting, along

with state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Miller said he believes the man is still in the area but says he has no information to support that.

McKeithen, 58, was described as an Air Force veteran with a wife, daughter, two stepsons and a stepdaughter.

Miller said he and McKeithen had handled calls together earlier in their career. The chief

said McKeithen and three other officers were awarded a medal of valor for risking their lives to rescue four special-needs children during 2005's Hurricane Katrina.

"He was a very gentle man for a policeman," Miller said. "He treated people with respect and dignity, and we're going to miss him sorely."

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## NATION

## Cohen, headed to prison, says 'much to be told'

By MICHAEL R. SISAK  
AND JIM MUSTIAN  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Michael Cohen, the former lawyer, media attack dog and fixer for President Donald Trump, said Monday there "remains much to be told" as he headed to prison to begin a three-year prison sentence for crimes including campaign finance violations related to hush-money payments made on Trump's behalf.

Cohen arrived at the Federal Correctional Institution in Otisville, a federal prison in the countryside 70 miles northwest of New York City, at 11:30 a.m. on Monday. A minimum security prison camp there has become a haven for white-collar criminals.

"There still remains much to be told and I look forward to the day when I can share the truth," Cohen told a crush of media outside his New York City apartment before getting into a waiting Cadillac Escalade SUV shortly before 10 a.m.

In a shot at Trump, he said he hoped when he is released, "the country will be in a place without xenophobia, injustice and lies at the helm."

Cohen appeared to read from a prepared statement and didn't answer shouted questions. He



JONATHAN CARROLL/AP

**Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal attorney, is confronted by members of the media Saturday in New York. He started a three-year prison sentence on Monday.**

stumbled on the way to the SUV as reporters and photographers jostled around scaffolding and scuffled with his driver.

Cohen, who has been disbarred, is trading plaid blazers for khaki prison garb after trying and failing in recent weeks to get his sentence delayed or reduced.

Cohen was originally scheduled to start his sentence in March, but a judge granted a two-

month delay so he could recover from surgery and get his affairs in order.

Cohen, 53, is the only person charged with a crime in connection with the hush-money payments to women who allegedly had affairs with Trump.

Federal prosecutors have said Trump directed Cohen to arrange the payments to buy the silence of porn actress Stormy Daniels and

former Playboy model Karen McDougal in the run-up to the 2016 election. Trump denies that he had trysts with either woman.

Cohen also pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about a Trump Tower project in Moscow, as well as to charges of tax evasion and bank fraud.

Once he gets to prison, Cohen will undergo medical and mental health screenings and be assigned a job, such as mowing the grounds or cleaning up the visiting room. He'll also get sets of clothing, bedding and towels.

At the prison camp, about 115 inmates sleep in bunks lined up in barrack-style halls instead of individual or two-man cells like in higher security facilities. Recreational amenities include tennis courts, horseshoes and bocce ball.

Forbes once ranked Otisville as one of "America's 10 Cushiest Prisons," but former employees and inmates say it's hardly "Club Fed." Inmates are still doing time and they're still separated from their families and friends.

"There's no free time to work on your book, or whatever," said former employee Don Drewett. "You get your downtime when you're supposed to be sleeping or when you can exercise, but that

only happens at certain windows of the day. It's not where in the middle of the day you can just opt to not go to work and go work out. That's not the way that works."

Cohen's fellow inmates include "Jersey Shore" star Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino, who wraps up an eight-month tax fraud sentence in September, and Fyre Festival fraudster Billy McFarland, who's serving a six-year sentence.

But Cohen should avoid acting like he's still in the spotlight, said Jack Donson, a former Otisville case manager who advises white-collar criminals on what to expect in prison.

Some high-profile inmates have been known to hire other prisoners to do their laundry and heat up their meals, but that's looked at by staff as a sign of laziness and entitlement.

"You assume the role of an inmate," said Donson. "You're cordial to everybody. You're respectful to everybody. You do your time. You ask for nothing from staff. Nothing from inmates. You accept nothing from inmates. You're nobody. Seriously."

If Cohen can't adjust, Donson said, "this time is going to be miserable."

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## NATION

# Pilots made runway change before jet hit Florida river

By JOSH REPLOGLE  
and MIKE SCHNEIDER  
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Pilots of a chartered jet that ran into a river at a Florida military base made a last-minute change to the runway where they would make a landing, a federal investigator said Sunday.

The pilots on the Miami Air International plane requested the change to air traffic controllers shortly before landing at Naval Air Station Jacksonville on Friday night.

The 9,000-foot-long runway where the Boeing 737 landed was essentially limited to 7,600 feet since there was a wire barrier set up to recover Navy aircraft in instances they couldn't land on a carrier during training, said Bruce Landsberg, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

"We don't know what they were thinking or why they made that choice," Landsberg said at a news conference. "That will be one of the things we look to find out."

Landsberg didn't elaborate on the significance of the runway change but said it would be a focus of investigation.

NTSB investigators said they hope a cockpit voice recorder helps them answer that question, but they have been unable to recover it yet since the part of the plane where it's located is still underwater in the St. Johns River. Investigators also plan to interview the pilots, Landsberg said.

Investigators have retrieved the flight data recorder.

Landsberg said the plane recently had been in maintenance, and logs showed a left-hand thrust reverser that was inoperative.

Thrust reversers are used to divert thrust from the engine, but they typically aren't used in calculating a plane's performance, Landsberg said.

According to a Purdue University College of Engineering description, reverse thrust can be used to help an aircraft come to a stop.

"We will be looking very carefully at the maintenance of the aircraft in the several weeks

prior," Landsberg said.

There were no serious injuries on the flight from a military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, although almost two dozen of the 143 passengers and crew members sought medical attention for minor injuries.

Capt. Michael Connor, the base's commanding officer, said all passengers had left the base Sunday on their way to their scheduled destinations.

Some aircraft will be allowed to depart the base and be relocated so pilots can continue with their training, but Naval Air Station Jacksonville will essentially be closed until the plane is removed from the river, Connor said.

All fuel needs to be removed before the plane can be moved, and that effort was complicated by the aircraft being partially submerged in the river, as well as stormy weather on Sunday, Landsberg said.

Officials said they didn't know how many gallons of fuel have spilled into the river, but engineers were using booms to contain the fuel and skimmers to



GARY MCCULLOUGH/AP

**A plane carrying 143 people from Cuba to Florida sits in a river at the end of a runway on Saturday in Jacksonville, Fla. Investigators say the pilots shifted to a different runway just before the crash.**

vacuum up contaminants.

Divers on Sunday were sent into the plane's cargo area to search and remove a handful of pets that had been unable to be rescued because of safety concerns. The investigators didn't say outright whether the animals were dead, but the pets would have been submerged for almost two days.

Cellphone video from passenger Darwing Silva captured the immediate, uncertain moments after the chartered jet landed.

A passenger shouted "Watch out! Watch out!" as other passengers and crew members cautiously walked out on a wing of the plane. Another passenger shouted, "Baby coming through!"

and a man can be seen holding an infant in his arms as he walks along the other passengers in yellow life jackets getting drenched by rain.

Silva shared the video with Jacksonville television station News4Jax.

Silva told the Tampa Bay Times that passengers initially were told Friday the aircraft might not be fit for takeoff. Then the flight was cleared to leave Cuba, but with the warning there would be no air conditioning.

Even though the plane was hot, there were no other problems during the flight from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Silva said.



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## NATION

# US may add 30K visas for seasonal workers

By COLLEEN LONG  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration plans to allow 30,000 more foreign workers temporarily into the United States for seasonal work through the end of September, a move that reflects how the booming economy has complicated President Donald Trump's efforts to restrict legal immigration.

Details of the plan were in a draft rule obtained by The Associated Press. It would benefit oyster shucking companies, fisheries, loggers and seasonal hotels, including Trump's own Mar-a-Lago club — all of which use the visas to hire migrants for temporary work they say Americans won't do.

The visas, known as H-2Bs, will be granted only to returning foreign workers who have had the visa before over the last three fiscal years. Those workers have already been vetted and are trusted and not likely to stay past their visa, officials said.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will begin taking applications from employers on behalf of the workers once a temporary rule is published in the Federal Register, expected on Wednesday.

The strong economy has made



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

**Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan says a Trump administration plan to add more visas for seasonal workers is a temporary fix.**

it increasingly difficult for employers to find labor, and the number of seasonal visas has been capped at 66,000 per fiscal year — a figure some businesses and lawmakers say is badly outdated, especially when the unemployment rate is the lowest it's been in 49 years.

Employers have argued that they desperately need more labor, pitting businesses against those both inside and outside of the

White House who say the visas take away American jobs.

Within the White House, there are some, like adviser Stephen Miller, who seek to restrict legal immigration, including reducing visas for high-skilled workers and suspending or limiting entry to the U.S. for individuals from countries with high rates of short-term visa overstays.

Meanwhile, Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has been

working on his own immigration overhaul package for months, meeting with lawmakers and interest groups, trying to put together legal immigration and border security changes that Republicans can rally around heading into the 2020 presidential election.

The debate has played out in Congress, too, with two bipartisan groups sending letters to Homeland Security, one urging an increase in the number of temporary visas and one expressing concern over a possible increase.

Homeland Security and Labor Department officials said the decision to allocate the visas was based in part on the fact some businesses could face irreparable harm if they can't employ the workers. The two departments have jointly decided to raise the cap during the past two fiscal years, but it was only 15,000 more in those years.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan said Monday the additional visas were a temporary fix.

"The Department of Homeland Security continues to urge lawmakers to pursue a long-term legislative fix that both meets employers' temporary needs while fulfilling the president's Buy American and Hire American executive order to spur higher

wages and employment rates for U.S. workers," McAleenan said.

According to the most recent data from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on visa approvals, half of the visas went to horticultural and agricultural workers. Foodservice, forestry and logging work and fisher-hunter-trappers made up the bulk of the rest of the 2017 visas.

Sens. Thom Tillis, of North Carolina, a Republican, and independent Angus King, of Maine, along with Reps. Andy Harris, R-Md., and Chellie Pingree, D-Maine, and about 25 other bipartisan lawmakers in the House and Senate sent a letter to Homeland Security this year saying they were working on a solution for the visa cap but until then the increase was badly needed.

A separate group of bipartisan senators, including Democrat Dick Durbin, of Illinois, and Iowa Republican Chuck Grassley, wrote last month they were concerned the visas enabled worker exploitation and fostered human trafficking and debt bondage because of the fees associated with the visas.

"Americans working alongside H-2B visa holders can find it difficult to compel employers to abide by federal and state labor and employment laws," the senators wrote.

## Third body found in debris of Ill. factory blast

Associated Press

WAUKEGAN, Ill. — Search and recovery personnel found the body of another worker Sunday in the rubble of a northern Illinois silicone factory that exploded and burst into flames two days earlier, bringing the death toll to three employees with one more body believed to be in the debris, a fire official said.

Waukegan Fire Marshal Steve Lenzi told a news conference that the body was found as first responders resumed searching in hazardous conditions in the debris from the AB Specialty Silicones plant in Waukegan, about 50 miles north of Chicago.

They were searching for the bodies of two of the nine workers who were there when an explosion rocked the building Friday night and left it a shattered skeleton.

It took recovery personnel two hours to bring out the body Sunday afternoon, Lenzi said in a statement. The search for the remaining body was called off Sunday evening and was to resume on Monday, he said.

Of the nine employees in the building at the time of the blast, one body was found early Saturday. Four people were taken to the hospital and one of those died later Saturday. The condition of the other three workers in the hospital was not immediately known, Lenzi said.

The third confirmed death was the body located Sunday, with one



JOHN STARKS, (ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILL.) DAILY HERALD/AP

**Debris is scattered at the scene of an explosion at AB Specialty Silicones on the border between Gurnee, Ill., and Waukegan. A third body has been recovered from the debris.**

other body still to recover. Two other workers did not require treatment at the time.

The cause of the explosion hasn't been determined, although Lenzi said it originated in the building where the silicone is produced.

"Most of the processes that they do are very nonhazardous. Silicone itself, not a hazardous substance," Lenzi said. "Something ... this weekend went hor-

rifically wrong."

AB Specialty Silicones makes specialty silicone chemical raw materials for products such as adhesives, sealants and coatings.

Lenzi said authorities have concluded that the explosion and fire were accidental.

"We are not looking at foul play,"

Lenzi said that from information they have gleaned in the preliminary investigation, some

of the employees realized something was wrong and alerted others to get out of the building just before the explosion.

Lake County Coroner Howard Cooper said that his office would perform autopsies Monday on at least two of the bodies and would announce the names of the victims and preliminary causes of death. Dental records would be used to identify at least one of the deceased, he said.

## US measles count rises to 764, driven by NY outbreaks

Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. health officials say at least 60 more measles cases have been reported, increasing a 2019 tally that is already the highest in 25 years.

Officials on Monday said 764 cases have been reported as of last Thursday. It's the most in the U.S. since 1994, when 963 were reported.

New York has had the most illnesses this year, by far. Last week's cases included 41 in New York City and 11 in nearby Rockland County. Most were unvaccinated people in Orthodox Jewish communities.

Medical organizations and county health officials from across the state are holding a news conference Monday in Albany to support legislation that would eliminate religious exemptions for vaccines.

As the number of reported measles cases rises, members of several physicians' groups are joining county health officials in calling on New York state to allow only medical exemptions for vaccines.

In all, 23 states have reported cases this year. The latest to join the list is Pennsylvania.



## WORLD

# Calm takes hold as Hamas reports Gaza cease-fire

BY ARON HELLER  
AND FARES AKRAM  
Associated Press

**JERUSALEM** — The Israeli military lifted protective restrictions on residents in the south on Monday, while Gaza's ruling Hamas militant group reported a cease-fire deal had been reached to end the deadliest fighting between the two sides since a 2014 war.

The escalation had killed 25 on the Gaza side, both militants and civilians, while on the Israeli side four civilians were killed by incoming fire.

The Islamic Jihad militant group, which Israel accused of instigating the latest violence, confirmed that a "mutual and concurrent" truce had been brokered by Egypt. Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said Egyptian mediators, along with officials from Qatar and the U.N., helped reach the deal.

He said Hamas could still use "different pressuring tools" to get Israel to ease a crippling blockade of Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pointedly noted that "the campaign is not over and it requires patience and judgment."

The intense fighting over the past two days came to a halt early Monday, and residents on both sides went back to their daily routines. Schools and roads had been

closed, and Israelis had been urged to remain indoors and near bomb shelters as intense rocket fire pounded the area.

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies and have fought three wars and numerous smaller battles since the Islamic militant group seized Gaza from Western-backed Palestinian forces in 2007.

In the latest fighting, which erupted over the weekend, Palestinian militants fired hundreds of rockets into Israel, while the Israeli military responded with airstrikes on some 350 militant targets inside Gaza, including weapons storage, attack tunnels and rocket-launching and production facilities.

It also deployed tanks and infantry forces to the Gaza frontier and put another brigade on standby. A Hamas commander allegedly involved in transferring Iranian funds to the group was killed in an airstrike.

Palestinian medical officials reported 25 deaths, including at least 10 militants and three women, two of them pregnant, and two babies.

The four Israeli civilians killed were the first Israeli fatalities from rocket attacks since the 50-day war in 2014. One was killed when his vehicle was hit by a Kornet anti-tank missile near the Gaza border.

The Gaza public works ministry said 130 housing units were destroyed in Israeli airstrikes,



ARIEL SCHALIT/AP

**An Israeli soldier stands at a gathering point at the Israel Gaza border on Monday. A cease-fire deal reportedly was reached.**

including a five-story building in the northern Gaza Strip, where six people, including a 12-year-old boy and an infant, were killed.

Egyptian mediators had been working with the U.N. to broker a cease-fire. Under past Egyptian-brokered deals, Israel has agreed to ease its joint blockade of Gaza with Egypt in exchange for a halt to rocket fire.

The latest fighting broke out after Palestinian militants accused Israel of not honoring an earlier cease-fire deal from March and opened fire on soldiers on the Israeli side of the Gaza frontier.

The terms of the latest deal were not known, but recent cease-fires have been short-lived.

In weary communities in southern Israel, there was criticism that the latest round of fighting had ended without tangible results — and no hope that it would not recur soon.

"When we have the upper hand, we need once and for all to finish the terror because this will repeat itself and will not stop,"

said Jacque Mendel, a resident of the coastal city of Ashdod, where a man was killed in his car by a rocket Sunday night.

Israel appears to have little appetite for another prolonged conflict. Later this week, the country marks Memorial Day, one of the most solemn days of the year, followed by the festive Independence Day. Next week, Israel is to host the popular Eurovision song contest, and the fighting could have deterred visitors.

Netanyahu, who recently secured reelection in part thanks to the votes of the rocket-battered residents along the Gaza Strip frontier, has traditionally been cautious in his handling of Gaza for fear of sparking an open-ended war with no clear endgame. But he is under pressure from the same electorate, and his potential coalition partners appear to favor a more hard-line approach to Gaza.

Even within his own ruling Likud Party, Netanyahu faced unusual criticism for not going farther to quash Gaza militants.

## Ex-banker extradited to the US

Associated Press

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** — Malaysia's attorney general said Monday that former Goldman Sachs executive Roger Ng has been temporarily extradited to the U.S. to face criminal charges linked to the alleged multibillion-dollar ransacking of state investment fund 1MDB.

Ng, who was arrested in Malaysia in November, has been charged both in the U.S. and Malaysia.

Attorney General Tommy Thomas said in a statement that Malaysia agreed to surrender Ng to the U.S. on last Friday for 10 months so the U.S. prosecution can proceed first.

Thomas said Ng will be returned to Malaysia to face charges as soon as the U.S. proceedings are over.

"The period of temporary surrender may be extended upon mutual agreement by Malaysia and the U.S.," Thomas added.

**“The period of temporary surrender may be extended upon mutual agreement by Malaysia and the U.S.”**

**Tommy Thomas**  
Malaysian attorney general

Malaysian and U.S. prosecutors allege that bond sales organized by Goldman Sachs for the 1MDB provided a way for associates of former Malaysian leader Najib Razak to steal and launder billions over several years.

Najib set up 1MDB when he took power in 2009, ostensibly to accelerate Malaysia's economic development, but the fund amassed billions in debts and is being investigated in the U.S. and several other countries for alleged cross-border embezzlement and money laundering.

The scandal helped precipitate Najib's ouster in a historic election defeat in May 2018. Najib himself is facing corruption charges linked to 1MDB but denies any wrongdoing.

Malaysia's current government has also filed criminal charges against Goldman Sachs, Ng and another former executive, Tim Leissner, and is seeking \$7.5 billion in compensation from the bank.

Ng, Leissner and Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho, identified by the U.S. as a mastermind of the 1MDB fraud, have also been charged in the United States. Leissner has pleaded guilty to money-laundering conspiracy and conspiring to violate foreign bribery laws. Low, who is also wanted in Malaysia, remains at large.

## Ecstatic Prince Harry says Meghan has healthy baby boy

BY GREGORY KATZ  
Associated Press

**WINDSOR, England** — A beaming Prince Harry said his wife, Meghan, gave birth to a baby boy early Monday morning.

Harry said he's "incredibly proud" of his wife and that they have a healthy baby boy who weighs 7 pounds 3 ounces. He has not yet been named.

Harry said the child was a little bit overdue and that had given them more time to contemplate names. He said he is ecstatic about the birth of their first child and said more details will be shared in the coming days.

"This little baby is absolutely to die for," he said. "I'm just over the moon."

The infant will be seventh in line to the British throne and is Queen Elizabeth II's eighth great-grandchild. Harry is the younger son of Prince Charles, the next in line to the throne, and the late Princess Diana, who died in a Paris car crash in 1997.

The child will be eligible for dual British-U.S. citizenship if Meghan and Harry want to go through the application process.

Harry, speaking before TV cameras on Monday afternoon, was present for the birth, which he said was an amazing experience.

The couple has said they didn't find out the



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

**Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, duchess of Sussex, shown at the annual Endeavour Award Awards in London in February, announced the birth of their son Monday.**

baby's sex in advance.

Senior royals have been informed of the birth, as has the family of Princess Diana, Harry's late mother.

## WORLD

# Cause of Russian plane crash that killed 41 sought

By JIM HEINTZ  
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian emergency workers have recovered 41 bodies and two flight recorders from the wreckage of a plane that caught fire during an emergency landing in Moscow, officials said Monday as they sought to discover the cause of the disaster.

Transport Minister Yevgeny Dietrich gave the death toll and said six of the survivors had been hospitalized. The plane, an Aeroflot SSJ100, was carrying 78 people, including five crew members.

The plane caught fire Sunday

evening about 6:30 p.m. as it came down hard on the runway at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport after turning back from a flight destined for Murmansk. The landing occurred about a half-hour after takeoff, indicating that the plane had little time to dump its fuel.

Videos showed desperate passengers hurrying down emergency slides deployed from the plane's forward section as black smoke billowed.

One of the dead was flight attendant Maxim Moiseev, Dietrich said. Russian news reports, citing unnamed sources, said Moiseev was in the back part of the plane,



COURTESY OF THE MOSCOW NEWS AGENCY/AP

**A Sukhoi SSJ100 aircraft of Aeroflot airlines is covered in fire retardant foam after a fiery emergency landing in Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow on Sunday that killed 41 people.**

which was engulfed in flames, and tried unsuccessfully to deploy an evacuation slide.

Russia's main investigative body said both of the plane's flight recorders — data and voice — have been recovered. Commit-

tee spokeswoman Svetlana Petrenko was also quoted by Russian news agencies on Monday as saying that investigators were looking into three main possibilities behind the cause of the disaster: inexperienced pilots, equipment

failure and bad weather.

Storms were passing through the Moscow area when the plane made its emergency landing. The reason why the pilots decided to make an emergency landing has not been announced.



ERANGA JAYAWARDENA/AP

**Sri Lankan policemen and a Naval soldier stand guard at a checkpoint in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Monday.**

## 2 arrested following clash in Sri Lankan town hit by blast

By ERANGA JAYAWARDENA  
Associated Press

NEGOMBO, Sri Lanka — Two people have been arrested and an overnight curfew lifted Monday after mobs attacked Muslim-owned shops and some vehicles in a Sri Lankan town where a suicide bombing targeted a Catholic church last month.

Residents in the seaside town of Negombo say the mostly Catholic attackers stoned and vandalized shops. It is unclear how the dispute began but most residents say a police dispute took a religious turn.

Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara said earlier that the violence was brought under control and two people were arrested.

A.M. Jeffery, a Muslim resident of Porutota village near Negombo, said the attackers burned a three-wheeler taxi and a motorbike.

Rizwan Jeffery, a gem seller who is not related to the former, said about 400 people rampaging in the streets stoned his shop. Some

of them took precious stones kept in showcases, he said.

Archbishop of Colombo Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, along with Muslim clerics, visited the area Monday to appeal for peace.

The government blocked some social media sites overnight, including Facebook and WhatsApp, "in order to control the situation," information department director Nalaka Kaluwewa said. The block was lifted early Monday.

The clash was the first reported since the Easter bombings by Islamic extremists two weeks ago that killed more than 250 people.

A state of emergency has been in place since then, with warnings that more attacks are possible.

Military spokesman Sumith Atapattu said Sunday that several people had been injured in clashes in Negombo, where St. Sebastian's Church was targeted in the attacks carried out by bombers who had pledged support for Islamic State.

## China: Trade envoys going to DC for talks despite latest threat by Trump

By JOE McDONALD  
Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese envoys are preparing to travel to the United States for trade talks, a government spokesman said Monday, suggesting talks on ending a bruising tariff war will go ahead despite President Donald Trump's surprise threat to raise import taxes.

Beijing is "trying to get more information" following Trump's announcement he might impose 25 percent tariffs on more Chinese imports, said the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang. Trump's announcement Sunday on Twitter caused financial markets to plunge. It prompted suggestions Beijing might pull out of talks planned for this week to avoid looking weak in the face of American pressure.

Asked whether the top Chinese envoy, Vice Premier Liu He, would visit Washington as planned, Geng said, "a Chinese team is preparing to travel to the United States for trade talks."

The lack of details suggested Beijing is wrestling with the conflict between wanting to end a fight that has battered Chinese exporters and its reluctance to appear to be giving in to Washington.

"We hope the United States will join efforts with China and we can meet each other halfway so we make a mutually beneficial agreement on the basis of win-win and mutual respect," Geng said.

The two governments have raised tariffs on tens of billions of dollars of each other's goods in their dispute over U.S. com-

**'We hope the United States will join efforts with China ... so we make a mutually beneficial agreement.'**

Geng Shuang  
Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman

plaints about Chinese technology ambitions.

That has disrupted trade in goods from soybeans to medical equipment.

Trump turned up the heat Sunday by saying he would raise import taxes on \$200 billion in Chinese products to 25% from 10% as of Friday. Washington already is charging 25% duty on another \$50 billion of Chinese imports, while Beijing has imposed penalties on \$110 billion of American goods.

Trump pushed back deadlines in January and March to raise tariffs in a bid to buy more time for negotiations. But on Sunday, Trump said on Twitter a deal with Beijing was coming "too slowly, as they attempt to renegotiate. No!"

Trump also threatened to slap tariffs on another \$325 billion in imports from China, covering everything it ships annually to the United States.

Trump increased tariffs on Chinese imports on July 6 in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand technology.

Washington and other trading partners also want Beijing to scale back plans for government-led creation of Chinese global competitors in robotics and other technology. They say those vio-

late the communist government's market-opening commitments.

Beijing's negotiators have agreed to narrow the politically sensitive Chinese trade surplus with the United States by purchasing more soybeans, natural gas and other goods.

They have offered to change industrial strategies but have refused to discard them outright.

Another sticking point is U.S. insistence on an enforcement mechanism with penalties in the event Beijing fails to stick to any commitments it makes.

Economists suggested Trump may want to step up pressure because China's economy is improving, reducing the urgency for Beijing to strike a deal.

Trump's threat makes going ahead with talks "very difficult politically" for President Xi Jinping's government, said Jake Parker, vice president of the U.S.-China Business Council. He said the Chinese public might "view this as a capitulation" if Beijing reached an agreement before Trump's Friday deadline.

A Chinese decision to pull out of talks could have global repercussions, causing turmoil in financial markets and dragging on economic growth, economists said.

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## SCIENCE

## UN report: Nature in worst shape in human history

By SETH BORENSTEIN  
Associated Press

Nature is in more trouble now than at any other time in human history, with extinction looming over 1 million species of plants and animals, scientists said Monday in the United Nations' first comprehensive report on biodiversity.

It's all because of humans, but it's not too late to fix the problem, the report said.

Species loss is accelerating to a rate tens or hundreds of times faster than in the past, the report said. More than half a million species on land "have insufficient habitat for long-term survival" and are likely to go extinct, many within decades, unless their habitats are restored. The oceans are not any better off.

"Humanity unwittingly is attempting to throttle the living planet and humanity's own future," said George Mason University biologist Thomas Lovejoy, who has been called the godfather of biodiversity for his research. He was not part of the report.

"The biological diversity of this planet has been really hammered, and this is really our last chance to address all of that," Lovejoy said.

Conservation scientists from around the world convened in Paris to issue the report, which exceeded 1,000 pages. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services included more than 450 researchers who used 15,000 scientific and government reports. The report's summary had to be approved by representatives of all 109 nations.

Some nations hit harder by the losses, like small island countries, warned critics in the report. Others, such as the United States, were cautious in the language they sought, but they agreed "we're in trouble," said Rebecca Shaw, chief scientist for the World Wildlife Fund, who observed the final negotiations.

The findings are not just about saving plants and animals, but about preserving a world that's becoming harder for humans to live in, said Robert Watson, a former top NASA and British scientist who headed the report.

"We are indeed threatening the potential food security, water security, human health and social fabric" of humanity, Watson told The Associated Press. He said the poor in less developed countries bear the greatest burden.

The report's 39-page summary highlighted five ways people are reducing biodiversity:

- Turning forests, grasslands and other areas into farms, cities and other developments.
- Polluting climate leaves plants and animals homeless. About three-quarters of Earth's land, two-thirds of its oceans and 85% of crucial wetlands have been severely altered or lost, making it harder for species to survive, the report said.

- Overfishing the world's oceans. A third of the world's fish stocks are overfished.

- Polluting climate leaves plants and animals homeless. About three-quarters of Earth's land, two-thirds of its oceans and 85% of crucial wetlands have been severely altered or lost, making it harder for species to survive, the report said.

- Allowing invasive species to crowd out native plants and animals. The number of invasive alien species per country has risen 70% since 1970, with one species of bacteria threatening nearly 400 amphibian species.

- Fighting climate change and saving



MICHAEL PROBST/AP

Birds fly past a smoking chimney on Dec. 4 in Ludwigshafen, Germany. A new U.N. report on biodiversity cites accelerating species loss caused by human activity.



WALLY SANTANA/AP

A fisherman unloads his catch in the port of Suao, northeastern Taiwan, on June 21, 2015. The U.N. report cites overfishing among detrimental human activities.



JASOK STRAZIUSO/AP

A lemur looks through the forest at Andasibe-Mantadia National Park in Madagascar on Dec. 14, 2011. The report cites loss of animals' habitats among the effects of human activities.

species are equally important, the report said, and working on both environmental problems should go hand in hand. Both problems exacerbate each other because a warmer world means fewer species, and a less biodiverse world means fewer trees and plants to remove heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the air, Lovejoy said.

The world's coral reefs are a perfect example of where climate change and species loss intersect. If the world warms another 0.9 degrees, which other reports say is likely, coral reefs will probably dwindle by 70% to 90%, the report said. At 1.8 degrees, the report said, 99% of the world's coral will be in trouble.

"Business as usual is a disaster," Watson said.

At least 680 species with backbones have

already gone extinct since 1600. The report said 559 domesticated breeds of mammals used for food have disappeared.

More than 40% of the world's amphibian species, more than one-third of the marine mammals and nearly one-third of sharks and fish are threatened with extinction.

The report relies heavily on research by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, which is composed of biologists who maintain a list of threatened species.

The report gives only a generic "within decades" time frame for species loss because it is dependent on many variables, including taking the problem seriously, which can reduce the severity of the projections, Watson said.

The report goes beyond species. Of the 18

measured ways nature helps humans, the report said 14 are declining, with food and energy production noticeable exceptions.

Many of the worst effects can be prevented by changing the way we grow food, produce energy, deal with climate change and dispose of waste, the report said. That involves concerted action by governments, companies and people.

Individuals can help with simple changes to the way they eat and use energy, said the co-chairman of the report, ecological scientist Josef Settele of the Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research in Germany. That doesn't mean becoming a vegetarian or vegan, but balancing meat, vegetables and fruit, and walking and biking more, Watson said.

## BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Boeing didn't tell airlines safety alert wasn't on

By DAVID KOENIG  
Associated Press

Boeing said Sunday that it discovered after airlines had been flying its 737 Max plane for several months that a safety alert in the cockpit was not working as intended, yet it didn't disclose that fact to airlines or federal regulators until after one of the planes crashed.

The feature was designed to warn pilots when a key sensor might be providing incorrect information about the pitch of the plane's nose.

But within months of the plane's debut in 2017, Boeing said, its engineers realized that the sensor warning light worked only when airlines also bought a separate, optional feature.

The sensors malfunctioned during an October flight in Indonesia and another in March in Ethiopia, causing software on the plane to push the nose down. Pilots were unable to regain control of either plane, and both crashed, killing a total of 346 people.

It is not clear whether having the warning light would have prevented either the Lion Air crash or the March 10 crash of an Ethiopian Airlines Max near Addis Ababa. Boeing's disclosure on Sunday, however, raised fresh questions about the company's candor with regulators and airline customers.

Boeing said again that the plane was safe to fly without the sensor alert, called an angle-of-attack disagree light. Other gauges tell pilots enough about the plane's speed, altitude, engine performance and other factors to fly safely, the company said.

A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration said the agency was notified of the



TED S. WARREN/AP

**A Boeing 737 Max 8 takes off on a test flight at Boeing Field in Seattle on April 10. Boeing faces questions over its failure to notify airlines or federal regulators about a malfunctioning safety alert.**

nonworking warning light in November after a Lion Air 737 Max crashed on Oct. 29 in Indonesia. He said FAA experts determined that the nonworking cockpit indicator presented a low risk.

"However, Boeing's timely or earlier communication with [airlines] would have helped to reduce or eliminate possible confusion," the spokesman said in an emailed statement. He declined to give more details.

In manuals that Boeing gave to Southwest Airlines, the biggest operator of both the Max and 737s in general, the warning light was depicted as a standard feature just as it is on older 737s, according to Southwest spokeswoman Brandy King.

After the Lion Air crash, King said, Boeing notified Southwest that it had discovered the lights didn't work without the optional angle-of-attack indicators, so Southwest began adding the optional feature.

That allowed the airline to activate the sensor-disagree warning lights on its 34 Max jets earlier

**'Boeing's timely or earlier communication with [airlines] would have helped to reduce or eliminate possible confusion.'**

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman

this year, she said.

King described both features as "supplemental" and "advisory" to other information provided to pilots during flights.

The indicator was supposed to tell pilots when sensors that measure the pitch of the plane's nose appear to conflict, a sign that the sensor information is unreliable. Boeing told airlines that the warning light was standard equipment on all Max jets.

Boeing engineers quickly learned, however, that the warning light worked only if airlines also bought an optional gauge that told pilots how the plane's nose was aimed in relation to the onrushing air. Boeing said the problem stemmed from software

delivered to the company. A Boeing spokesman declined to name the software vendor.

Boeing said Sunday that because in-house experts decided that the nonworking light didn't affect safety, the company decided to fix the problem by disconnecting the alert from the optional indicators at the next planned update of cockpit display software.

Boeing didn't tell airlines or the FAA about that decision.

Boeing hopes to win approval from the FAA and foreign regulators to get the Max flying again before summer is over. When it does, the company said, the sensor warning light will be standard.

Nearly 400 Max jets were

grounded at airlines worldwide in mid-March after the Ethiopia crash.

Boeing is working to fix the software that pitched the planes' noses down based on faulty sensor readings and to provide pilots with more information about the plane's automation.

The Justice Department is conducting a criminal investigation into whether Boeing misled regulators about features on the plane, including flight control software at the heart of the crash investigations.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 7)	\$1.1485
Dollar buys (May 7)	€0.8707
British pound (May 7)	\$1.34
Japanese yen (May 7)	109.00
South Korean won (May 7)	1,100.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3095
Canada (Dollar)	1.3471
China (Yuan)	6.7677
Denmark (Krone)	6.6716
Egypt (Pound)	1.1502
Euro	\$1.1190/0.8936
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8459
Hungary (Forint)	209.14
Israel (Shekel)	3.5875
Japan (Yen)	110.91
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3041
Norway (Krone)	8.7415
Philippines (Peso)	51.38
Poland (Zloty)	3.82
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7495
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3634
South Korea (Won)	1,171.04
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0152
Thailand (Baht)	31.90
Turkey (Lira)	6.0100
Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonmilitary exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	2.44
3-month bill	3.38
30-year bond	2.92

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

## TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



## TUESDAY IN EUROPE



## WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## 3 hurt, 180 hogs die in farm's 2nd fire

**OH** WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE — Authorities said a barn fire injured three construction workers and killed an estimated 180 hogs at an Ohio farm where about 5,000 pigs died in another blaze last year.

The three workers with reported burn injuries were flown to a Columbus hospital after the fire April 30 at Straathoff Swine Farm in Fayette County, about 40 miles southwest of Columbus.

County Sheriff Vernon Stanforth said the barn was under construction. There was no immediate determination about what caused the blaze.

The Record Herald in nearby Washington Court House reported the barn that burned was a replacement on the site of one of two buildings destroyed by fire last June.

## Baby sea lion rescued from busy highway

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — A baby sea lion wandered onto a busy highway in South San Francisco on April 30, stopping vehicles and alarming motorists before officials whisked it away.

SFGATE reported the California Highway Patrol received the call around 8:30 a.m. Motorists had tried to shoo the sea lion to safer ground, with one man getting out of his car to herd it with a handkerchief.

Highway patrol got the animal into a patrol car, where video taken by KGO-TV shows the sea lion bobbing its head in the backseat.

It was taken to the Peninsula Humane Society and was to be transported to the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, Calif.

## Woman arrested after chase through towns

**RI** PAWTUCKET — Rhode Island police said they chased a woman driving a stolen pickup truck while under the influence through several cities and towns for about 25 minutes before she crashed in a restaurant parking lot and was taken into custody.

Warwick police said they first tried to pull the woman over Friday night because they believed she was under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Authorities said she sped off and nearly hit an officer.

Officers from Warwick, Providence, Pawtucket and state police became involved in the chase, which ended in the parking lot of a restaurant in Pawtucket.

## Board OKs trans student guidelines

**KS** MANHATTAN — The Manhattan-Ogden School Board has approved guidelines for transgender students in the school district.

The board voted 6-1 Wednesday to approve the guidelines, after discussing the issue since December.

The Manhattan Mercury re-

## THE CENSUS

100

The number of miles a garage sale on the Mississippi River spanned over the weekend. The 100 Mile Garage Sale is an annual bargain-shopping event held along both the Minnesota and Wisconsin sides of the Mississippi. It has been happening for more than two decades. The sale follows Highway 35 in Wisconsin from Fountain City to Prescott, and Highway 61 in Minnesota from Red Wing to Winona. Pat Mutter, executive director of a convention and visitors bureau in Winona, said the sale

draws people from around the country. It is sponsored by Mississippi Valley Partners, which runs a website that lists the sales, addresses and a brief description of inventory. Lake City, Minn., Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Michelle Larson said the sale also benefits local restaurants and convenience stores.



DON CAMPBELL, THE (ST. JOSEPH, MICH.) HERALD-PALLADIUM/AP

## Fishing expedition

A fisherman tries his luck off the south pier in Lake Michigan as a fishing boat enters the St. Joseph River channel in St. Joseph, Mich.

ported the guidelines give students the right to be addressed by the name and pronoun they choose. It also allows students to use the restroom that corresponds to their gender identity, and it allows students to play for sports teams of their gender identity.

The board heard comments from 21 people expressing support or opposition.

Some opponents cited religious reasons and others criticized allowing students to play for teams of their gender identity.

## State doesn't plan to ban mushroom hunting

**MO** JEFFERSON CITY — The Missouri Department of Conservation says it is not planning to ban mushroom hunting on public lands and is not considering implementing a license for the activity.

The department was responding to a social media post that includes the agency's logo. It shows a fake statement attributed to the agency that claims the state is banning mushroom hunting on public hunting grounds, including

those around lakes. And it says it is legal to hunt for mushrooms on private land without a permit.

It also says the state is considering implementing a \$50 license for mushroom hunting, beginning Jan. 1. The wildlife department said the post is a hoax.

## Lighthouse goes dark after cable damaged

**ME** SEGUIN ISLAND — The loss of electricity at Maine's second-oldest lighthouse is creating a scramble to accommodate visitors this summer.

The Coast Guard installed temporary navigation lights after the 162-year-old Seguin Island Light Station went dark in November because of a failed underwater cable from the mainland.

Coast Guard Lt. Matthew Odom said the long-term plan is to restore light to the historic Fresnel lens using solar panels and an energy-efficient LED bulb. There are no plans to repair the damaged underwater power cable because the Coast Guard no longer maintains them.

## Big Boy chugs to post-restoration debut

**WY** CHEYENNE — One of the world's biggest and most powerful steam locomotives is chugging to its big debut after five years of restoration work.

Big Boy No. 4014 rolled out of a Union Pacific restoration shop in Cheyenne on Saturday morning as hundreds of spectators looked on. From there, it goes to Ogden, Utah, to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad.

Big Boy engines hauled freight between Wyoming and Utah in the 1940s and 1950s. Of the 25 Big Boys built, eight remain, but only this one will be operational.

## 2 holes-in-one are scored in same round

**OH** FINDLAY — A golfer who got his first hole-in-one last week at a course in northern Ohio didn't wait long for his second, recording an ace just six holes later.

The (Findlay) Courier reported that double aces by Dale Cohen, 62, came on a raw, rainy and blustery morning that prompted most members of his league at Sycamore Springs Golf Course in Findlay to beg off.

The National Hole In One Registry says the odds of making two aces in the same round are roughly 67 million to 1.

## 22 facing charges in cockfighting raid

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Authorities said nearly two dozen people are facing charges following last month's raid on a north Philadelphia home where police said a cockfight was being held.

Officials said roughly 40 roosters and chickens, some of them dead, were found in the home. Authorities said officers chased down several suspects who tried to flee the scene on foot.

Police said 22 people were charged with criminal conspiracy and cruelty to animals.

From wire reports



## FACES



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Alex Trebek accepts the award for outstanding game show host for "Jeopardy!" at the Daytime Emmy Awards on Sunday in Pasadena, Calif.

## Standing ovation for Trebek at Daytime Emmys

BY LYNN ELBER  
Associated Press

Alex Trebek got a standing ovation as he accepted an Emmy Award as host of "Jeopardy!" and immediately set the audience at ease, even as he alluded to his cancer diagnosis.

Trebek, 78, who announced in March he has advanced pancreatic cancer, told the theater audience Sunday he had been worried that sympathy, rather than merit, might snare him the trophy for best game show host.

But then he mulled what happened last year, after he underwent surgery to remove life-threatening blood clots on his brain.

"You think that would have elicited a certain amount of sympathy. But I didn't win!" he said, drawing roars from the crowd that moments before rose to applaud him. Instead, he said, he realized that maybe he'd been worrying about the wrong thing and instead should emulate Oscar-winning actress Sally Field.

"You guys like me, and you value my work. I tell you if that's the case, I can live with that," Trebek said. His voice was thick with emotion, but he was poised and dapper in his tuxedo.

"General Hospital" was among the big winners, with a leading five trophies that included best lead actor honors for Maurice Benard. But "The Young and the Restless" won the top drama series award, as well as writing and directing honors.

The top drama acting honor went to Jacqueline MacInnes Wood of "The Bold and the Beautiful."

"The Ellen DeGeneres Show" won the Emmy for best entertainment talk show, with "Six Dreams" named the best Spanish-language show in the category.

"Rachael Ray" received the informative talk show award. "CBS Sunday Morning" was named best morning program, with "Despierta America" earning the honor for best Spanish-language program.

"Valerie's Home Cooking," with Valerie Bertinelli won the award for best culinary program, with the game show trophy going to "Family Feud."



Scorsese



Bruce Springsteen

Netflix

# SPRINGSTEEN and SCORSESE

## Musician, filmmaker reconnect to plug The Boss' Netflix special

BY LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

With a friendship going back to a fateful meeting at The Roxy in 1975, Bruce Springsteen and Martin Scorsese shared the stage in Los Angeles on Sunday night for a conversation about everything from their Catholic upbringings and maturing faith to Flannery O'Connor, concert documentaries and the role of an audience.

The Netflix-hosted event was in support of the Emmys campaign for his one-man show "Springsteen on Broadway." An earnest Springsteen laughed at himself as he prepared to close out the evening and charm the crowd with an acoustic performance of "Dancing in the Dark" that he was "here today begging complete strangers for votes."

But what better way to do so than with a nostalgic performance and a heartfelt chat about creativity and faith with one of the greatest living filmmakers. And they didn't waste time getting to the heavy stuff.

"All my work was informed by my years in Catholic school," Springsteen said to the crowd of Emmy voters and press. "All that redemption, damnation, all the Martin Scorsese films. ... As I got older I stopped fighting against it. Now I draw on it and enjoy it. There's no greater will to draw on than myths of Catholicism. Everything is in there."

Scorsese responded that even his upcoming Netflix film, "The Irishman," deals with the same thing: "Trust, loyalty, betrayal and faith."

Springsteen said he's always found that "the darkness is more interesting than the light." He conned it to other artists he finds interesting, from Hank Williams, to Bob Dylan and Robert De Niro, who he said has a "two-hour face."

"It's, 'What's bothering that guy? Something is bothering that guy,'" Springsteen said. "Those are the things that keep us watching. That's why you can watch Bob De Niro's face for two hours, not 15 minutes. It never gives up its secrets."

The two eventually got around to discussing "Springsteen on Broadway," which was born by accident, after President Barack Obama asked him to play at the White House in the last few weeks of his administration. Springsteen decided to combine performances with storytelling — he'd just written a memoir after all, and it was fresh — and that's what would eventually become the Broadway show and the film.

As with Scorsese's "The Last Waltz," "Springsteen on Broadway" does not cut away to the audience. The director, Thom Zimny, didn't even want one at first, but Springsteen protested.

"I said, 'Well who's going to laugh at my jokes?'" he said.

## 'Endgame' blows past \$2B, more box office records

From wire services

"Avengers: Endgame" continued its theatrical reign into a second weekend, swallowing the bulk of the box office and leaving newcomers such as "The Intruder," "Long Shot" and "UglyDolls" to fight for scraps.

Disney's superhero blockbuster added \$145.8 million in its second weekend (a 59 percent drop) for a cumulative \$619.7 million, becoming the fastest movie ever to get to \$600 million domestically, according to estimates from measurement firm Comscore.

Globally, it surpassed the \$2 billion mark, earning \$2.189 billion after just 11 days of global release, a new record. "Avatar," the previous record-holder, took 47 days to reach the benchmark and grossed \$2.788 billion over the course of its theatrical run.)

"Endgame" is among just five films ever to reach \$2 billion, joining its predecessor "Avengers: Infinity War" (\$2.048 billion) to become the second Marvel film on the list and the third Disney film, with "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (\$2.068 billion), "Avatar" and "Titanic" (\$2.187 billion) rounding out the list.

"Endgame" currently stands as the No. 2

film of all time behind only "Avatar."

In second place, by quite a distance, "The Intruder" premiered with \$11 million. The thriller stars Michael Ealy and Megan Good as young homeowners who are terrorized by the house's previous owner (Dennis Quaid).

In third place, "Long Shot," starring Seth Rogen and Charlize Theron, debuted with a lackluster \$10 million.

No. 4, the animated musical comedy "UglyDolls" opened with \$8.5 million.

Rounding out the top five, Disney's "Captain Marvel" added \$4.3 million in its third weekend for a cumulative \$420.8 million.

### Progressive Christian author Rachel Held Evans, 37, dies

Progressive Christian author Rachel Held Evans died in Tennessee on May 4 after spending two weeks in a hospital for treatment for an infection and brain seizures. She was 37.

Sarah Bessey, a writer and friend of Evans', said Evans challenged the evangelical community by addressing sexism and racism and "championing voices of people who have

been marginalized in the church," including the LGBTQ community.

Evans was a resident of Dayton, Tenn. Her books include "Faith Unraveled," "A Year of Biblical Womanhood" and "Searching for Sunday." Evans' website said she wrote about "faith, doubt and life in the Bible Belt."

### Other news

■ A representative for R&B singer Peabo Bryson says he will make a full recovery after suffering a mild heart attack last week, but has to cancel several planned concerts so he can rest. Bryson, 68, is a two-time Grammy winner known for hits such as "Beauty and the Beast" and "A Whole New World."

■ Actor Vince Vaughn has been convicted of reckless driving after his arrest for failing a drunken driving test last year. An attorney for the 49-year-old "Wedding Crashers" star entered a no contest plea to the misdemeanor count May 3 in Los Angeles Superior Court. Vaughn was arrested June 10 at a sobriety checkpoint in Manhattan Beach, Calif. Police say he repeatedly refused to get out of his car and driving failed a field sobriety test and a blood alcohol test.

## SHIFTING GEARS

# A Bug's life

A look back at the famous Beetle as VW discontinues production

By CASEY WILLIAMS  
Tribune News Service

Conceived as a populist vehicle to enable mass transport on German dictator Hitler's new Autobahns, the Volkswagen Beetle evolved through three generations over 80 years to become a beloved automotive icon.

The same car that put Germany on wheels carried American college kids to their first classes and took Elle Woods to court in "Legally Blonde." Barbie even drove one. But the Beetle will be discontinued after 2019.

"The Beetle is a premium-priced small car, and in today's market that's about as tough of a place to be as there is," said Jeremy Acevedo, an industry analyst for Edmunds. "As Americans make the shift to SUVs, demand for cars tumbled. Sales of the Beetle have steadily declined, and in 2018, accounted for just 4.1 percent of Volkswagen sales."

It is a very different world than the one in which the Beetle was born.

Hitler and Henry Ford were admirers of each other. Hitler wanted his own Model T, a people's car for working class Germans. So, Hitler tapped Ferdinand Porsche to engineer a rear-engine car. Pre-production models were on German streets by 1936. Citizens said they looked like beetles.

Initially driven by a 25-horsepower four-cylinder air-cooled engine, it topped out at 62 mph. Despite the Allies' effort to destroy the VW plant, cars began arriving in the U.S. during 1949. By the late 1960s, a 40-horsepower version could reach 71 mph, smoke 0-62 mph in 27.5 seconds, and achieve 36 MPG.

Neither fast nor stylish, it nevertheless became a hippie totem. Beetles were cheap, reliable, counterculture alternatives to the hulking V8-powered Detroit iron their parents drove. Disney's "Herbie the Love Bug" movie and clever ads by Doyle Dane Bernbach with headlines like "Think small" and "Ugly is only skin-deep" resonated.

"It's got personality," Acevedo said. "That distinctive shape makes it recognizable from a mile away; the perfect fit for TV and movies, or games of Punch Buggy or Slug Bug, which all contribute to the Beetle's place in pop culture."

Only two Beetles were sold stateside during 1949, but the car reached its sales peak during 1968 with nearly 400,000 cars. On Feb. 17, 1972, VW produced its 15,007,034th Beetle, finally exceeding the Model T (it eventually sold 21,529,464 worldwide). By the mid-70s, the Beetle was no longer competitive with Japanese compacts, prompting VW to introduce the front-drive Golf in 1974. U.S. sales ceased in 1979.

But, it wasn't over. In the early '90s, VW's stylists desired a dramatic way to showcase hybrid technology. They could have created a sleek lozenge, but J. Mays and Freeman Thomas had another idea: Wrap it in a futuristic shape as familiar as Mickey Mouse. The Concept One, looking like a modern Beetle, debuted at the 1994 Detroit Auto Show. Four years later, Ferdinand Piech, VW chairman and Ferdinand Porsche's grandson, launched the New Beetle.

With the song "Dream The Same Dream" playing in the background, Piech recounted how focus group participants smiled, then reached out to the car as if to hug it. A large speedometer, rear seat grab straps and steering wheel coverings echoing the original's vinyl seats were instantly familiar.

Contrasting the classic Beetle, the New



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VOLKSWAGEN/TNS

The 2019 Beetle final edition, the last model year for the Bug, is available as a coupe or convertible.



A late-1960s flower Beetle is elaborately decorated.



The 1937 pre-production model of the Beetle is shown in Germany.

Beetle was built on the front-drive, Jetta/Golf platform. The base engine was a 115-horsepower four-cylinder that rolled 0-60 mph in 9.8 seconds, but a 170-horsepower five-cylinder and 180-horsepower Turbo S came later.

Volkswagen overhauled the Beetle for 2012 with a more vertical windshield, "kaf-erfahc" upper glove box and alloy wheels with hubcaps that recalled early Beetles. The 2019 Final Edition, starting at \$23,045, is available with diamond-stitched leather

seats, 19-inch white alloy wheels and Fender audio.

Recent sales have never reached the heights seen in the 1960s. The New Beetle racked up more than 50,000 sales in its first year, but the recent peak was 43,134 cars in 2013. Just 14,111 sold in the U.S. in 2018. Still, enthusiasts can become emotional about the weird little car.

"With its unique body lines, the Beetle is the most recognizable car in the world," said Amanda Robbins, a member of the Circle City VW Club in Indianapolis. "It was fun, cheap and marketed to be a car that anyone could work on. They've been ratted out, souped up, chopped up, drag-raced, lowered, lifted and turned into dune buggies."

"My dad has a VolksRod, my stepdad has a VolksRod and my stepmom has a 1979 convertible Beetle," said Robbins. "I own a 2015 Beetle Classic, customized to be more retro with 17-inch wheels and a plaid interior."

Robbins said everyone has a Beetle story, it seems.

"Someone is always stopping us to tell us about how their first car was a Beetle, their parents had a Beetle, they got in trouble doing something stupid in a Beetle. ... So many people hold a special place in their hearts for this iconic car. We'll always see them on the road."

Even given diminishing car sales, it's strange that VW would discontinue its famous car.

"The Beetle is synonymous with VW," Acevedo said. "However, Volkswagen's reputation as a small car specialist hasn't done the brand any favors in today's SUV-intent market. So if the Beetle is Mickey Mouse, think of the Tigan and Atlas as Marvel and Star Wars — highly profitable growth drivers aimed at today's shoppers."

It seems as though VW could have developed the Beetle into a compact crossover, something like the Fiat 500X. If history is indication, it's not over.

"Volkswagen did all it could to salvage this run of the Beetle," Acevedo said. "I do think the Beetle may reemerge as an EV (electric vehicle). The I.D. Buzz concept, based on the Microbus, makes it look like the brand is aiming to infuse their upcoming EVs with some Volkswagen heritage."



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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
Lt. Col. Sean Klimke, Europe commander  
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander

## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
leonard.terry@stars.com  
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
reid.robert@stars.com  
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
croley.tina@stars.com  
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moores.sean@stars.com

Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
gromelski.joe@stars.com

## BUREAU STAFF

### Europe/Mideast

Erk Stavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
stavin.erk@stars.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

### Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@stars.com  
+81-452.552.211 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.3830

### Washington

Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
caccioli.joseph@stars.com  
+1(202)886-0033  
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@stars.com

## CIRCULATION

### Mideast

Robert W. Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager  
robert.w.reisman.naf@gmail.com  
xssculation@stars.com  
DSN (314)583-9111

### Europe

Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager  
lewis.karen@stars.com  
memberservices@stars.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090

### Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stars.com  
+81-3 5985.3171, DSN (315)229.3171

## CONTACT US

### Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003  
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

### Reader letters

letters@stars.com

### Additional contacts

stars.com/contactus

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# OPINION

## No cover when Medicare-for-all costs votes

By MEGAN MCARDLE

Washington Post Writers Group

The 2020 presidential race looks increasingly like it will be the Medicare-for-all election, as an increasing number of Democratic primary candidates — including front-runners such as Sens. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. — sign on to the slogan. The policy ought to be as easy sell, given that Medicare polls so well and American insurers so badly.

Except on, it's not going to be easy at all — at least not when vague talk about Medicare-for-all turns to the specifics of a system that could rationalize the myriad insanities of the fragmented U.S. health care system and get a handle on its exorbitant costs. That would inevitably mean bulldozing most private insurance to build something simpler and more straightforward. Unfortunately, people are actually pretty attached to their own little corner of the country's collective disaster.

No, really. You wouldn't know it to read most of the news coverage, or to listen to politicians, but that is one of the more consistent results in health care polling. Over and over again, roughly 7 out of every 10 Americans report that they're fairly satisfied with the quality of their personal coverage.

If that's surprising, it's because most Americans aren't nearly so sanguine about everyone else's coverage. Only about a third of people say the general quality of health care coverage in America is good, and this worries them a great deal. But to really think that they themselves are doing just fine. Arguably, the reason they hate the system so much is that they're fond of their own coverage and fear losing it.

It's nice, of course, that most Americans are reasonably happy with their insurance. However, if you agree with them that the health care system desperately needs a gut renovation, their satisfaction is something of a problem.

Consider the political explosion when the Affordable Care Act went into effect, and a relatively small number of people lost their insurance plans. In vain did Obama administration desperately need a gut insurance was "junk" and consumers would like the new plans much better; livid citizens stormed the offices of their nearest representative. Within weeks, the administration was scrambling to allow existing insurance to continue under "Obamacare," and President Barack Obama was forced to apologize.

Now consider trying to repeat that stunt with the 49% of the population that has employer-sponsored health insurance. The new program might be an improvement, but the only way to find out would be for people to give up something they know they like. That's a big ask about something as important to people as their health insurance.

Which almost certainly rules out sweeping health care reform, whether it's Medicare-for-all or a center-right plan such as Universal Catastrophic Coverage. To be politically viable, any reform must guarantee that people will have the option of keeping what they already have.

A system designed with that heavy constraint will end up looking like ... well, a lot like Obamacare — an inefficient, jerry-built mess that may fill in some gaps but won't address the health care system's fundamental problems.

The advocates of Medicare-for-all have a ready retort: Other countries seem to have

managed all right, so it must be possible here. But most of those countries' systems started a long time ago, when health care was a much smaller share of the economy and fewer people had robust, comprehensive private medical insurance.

For example, when Britain's National Health Service was established in 1948, health care spending was less than 2% of gross domestic product, and many people simply could not afford to see a doctor. That meant that the tax bill for universal coverage was relatively modest. But perhaps more important, for both doctors and patients, the program offered an almost pure gain. Doctors could keep seeing private patients who wanted to pay extra for faster personal service. But they could also collect a salary from the NHS for seeing patients who previously couldn't have afforded them. It was win-win.

For the United States to do the same thing, the cost would at a minimum increase the federal budget by more than half again. And that would be political chills compared with the task of taking more than 100 million Americans that their current insurance is being canceled.

That isn't going to happen. Bernie Sanders, or some other Democratic presidential candidate, may well get elected promising Medicare-for-all. And a Democrat-controlled Congress might even pass something under that name. But in the end, there are just too many Democrats in swing districts for the party to take a suicidal charge at employer-sponsored insurance. More likely is Medicare-for-price — and once voters get a look at the form tag, even that seems doubtful.

Megan McArdle is a Washington Post columnist who has written a number of books: *Why Failing Well Is the Key to Success*.

## Muslim Brotherhood designation would be unfair

By ARSALAN IFTIKHAR

Special to The Washington Post

The Trump administration is reportedly pushing to issue an order that would designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a "foreign terrorist organization," which would bring the weight of U.S. sanctions against a diverse political movement with millions of members — despite the group publicly disavowing violence nearly 50 years ago.

That's been a goal of many anti-Muslim activists and professional Islamophobes for years. The government has never gone along with the push to declare the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization, largely because intelligence officials and outside analysts agree that the group simply isn't one. But the difference now is that Donald Trump is in the White House, and bashing Muslims without regard for the possible consequences fits perfectly with his politics.

Even the CIA thinks it's a terrible idea to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization. The agency's experts warned two years ago that designation of the Brotherhood could actually "fuel extremism" and damage relations with America's allies. Politico Magazine reported. The CIA document, published internally on Jan. 11, 2017, noted that the Muslim Brotherhood — which boasts millions of followers around the Arab world — has "rejected violence as a matter of official policy and [has publicly] opposed al-Qaida and ISIS" and other terrorist groups as well.

For decades, the "Muslim Brotherhood" label has been deployed as very sloppy shorthand to refer to all American Muslim politicians, government officials and

civic organizations with whom conservatives disagree ideologically. Anti-Muslim activists have also used it to attack Muslim government officials such as former Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., longtime Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin and even Golda Meir, the first woman prime minister, who famously criticized Trump at the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

Nearly 7 million American Muslims would become the primary domestic target of such a designation. If Trump goes ahead, Muslim organizations and community activists who are accused of having ties to the Muslim Brotherhood could potentially be criminally prosecuted for providing "material support" to terrorist groups without even knowing it. Simply put, any "foreign terrorist organization" designation would stigmatize American Muslim civic life by sowing fear and confusion, which would chill free speech for millions of Muslims living in the United States today.

In many ways, this next-level Islamophobia would be history repeating itself. Many Americans forget that millions of Irish Catholics during the 19th century were smeared as "papists" with loyalties only to the Vatican by the Know Nothing Party to discredit them. Similarly, the American Jewish community dealt with a history of naked anti-Semitism in the 20th century, when Henry Ford's newspaper published conspiracy theories about "international Jewry" to smear them. Trump's attempts to smear Muslims today — saying "Islam hates us" and trying, before the courts intervened to roll back his orders, to ban Muslims from entering the country — are just the latest version of such biases.

An analysis by the Southern Poverty Law Center of Trump's push to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as terrorists argued

that they were squarely "aimed at American Muslims and controlling them while at the same time continuing to demonize Islam" through these questionable federal policies. If the Muslim Brotherhood is labeled as a "terrorist" organization, anyone who is labeled as a Muslim Brotherhood supporter will be seen as a terrorist sympathizer by their fellow Americans without any proof needed whatsoever.

Many people believe that this Muslim Brotherhood designation is simply a political smokescreen to criminalize Muslim civic life. Prominent groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for American Progress and Human Rights Watch have warned that this executive order would threaten the constitutional rights of millions of American Muslims in the United States.

The term "scapegoats" is from the Bible's Book of Leviticus, which referred to goats that Civil Liberties Union, the Center for American Progress and Human Rights Watch have warned that this executive order would threaten the constitutional rights of millions of American Muslims in the United States.

If the Trump administration is successful in designating the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization, it will only lead to the further disenfranchisement of American Muslims, who already are beginning to feel like strangers in a strange land.

Arsalan Iftikhar is an international human rights activist and senior research fellow for the Bridge Initiative at Georgetown University and author of "Scapegoats: How Islamophobia Helps Our Enemies & Threatens Our Freedoms."

# Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



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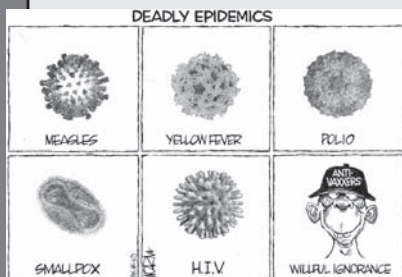
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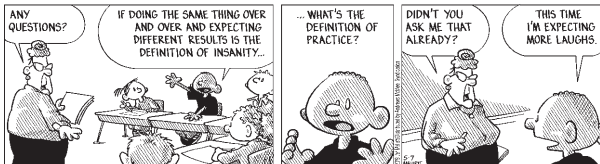


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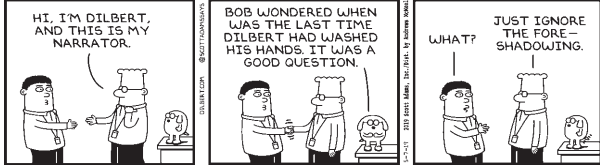


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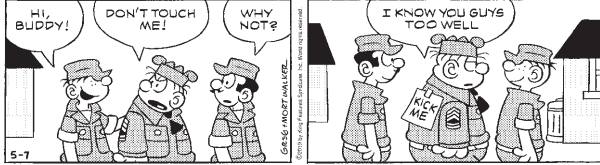
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Bizarro



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
				18				19	20			
21	22	23			24							
25					26				27	28	29	
30					31				32			
33					34				35			
					36				37			
38	39	40						41				
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

## ACROSS

- 1 Choir voice
- 5 Right angle
- 8 Dallas team, to fans
- 12 Check
- 13 Sheep call
- 14 Out of the storm
- 15 Rub with an emery board, perhaps
- 17 Speck
- 18 Author Fleming
- 19 T-shirt fabric
- 21 Primitive
- 24 Spartan queen
- 25 Hamilton-Burr
- 26 Criticize again and again
- 30 Nabokov novel
- 31 Two-tone cookies
- 32 Ms. Thurman
- 33 Road marker
- 35 Help a crook
- 36 Temporary calm
- 37 Steinway product
- 38 "With any luck"
- 41 Fragrant tree
- 42 2004 on a cornerstone
- 43 Color akin to turquoise
- 48 French river
- 49 Wildebeest
- 50 Cold War initials
- 51 Getz of jazz

- 52 Kenny G's instrument
- 53 Litigates

## DOWN

- 1 "Bow-wow!"
- 2 Island garland
- 3 Up to
- 4 "Anna Christie" playwright
- 5 Black, in verse
- 6 Murphy's —
- 7 Guinevere's lover
- 8 Rum cocktail
- 9 Oodles
- 10 Presidential power
- 11 Penn or Astin
- 16 Calendar box
- 20 Praiseful pieces
- 21 Dutch cheese
- 22 German car name
- 23 Authentic
- 24 "The Sound of Music" teenager
- 26 Drags out
- 27 Hefty horn
- 28 Portent
- 29 Peacekeeping org.
- 31 Piece of work
- 34 Football team
- 35 Boeing rival
- 37 Chart format
- 38 Med. plan options
- 39 Skip
- 40 Tower city
- 41 Change
- 44 — pickle
- 45 Baton Rouge sch.
- 46 Exploit
- 47 Hosp. parts

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

VIM	ACE	LA	EEL
ODE	POTUS	ACE	
WORK	OF	ART	RRS
	ELF	CRY	OUT
BOG	GLE	HOOF	
EMI	OER	SUCRE	
TAFT	SEE	ROOK	
ANTIC	AMP	RTE	
	OMIT	PHONES	
EFFETE	ROO		
DIG	ISLE	OF	MAN
ADA	ELISE	OBI	
MOB	SASSY	MEX	

## 5-7

## CRYPTOQUIP

HPCY YOCZ - XWZ WTOE  
MCTTDOT VDBPY JWVO QWZDXO  
MO HTCQQDAB CTWLAE C  
XTDVO JXOAO? XWTEWA  
MZLO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I WERE TO FILL ALL THESE TEST TUBES WITH NON-ACIDIC SOLUTIONS, I'D DECLARE "BASES LOADED!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals B




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- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

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## SCOREBOARD

## Sports on AFN

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myafn.net

## Pro soccer

## MLS

Eastern Conference									
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA			
Philadelphia	2	0	2	11	11	10			
D.C. United	5	4	2	17	12	16			
Montreal	5	4	2	17	12	16			
Toronto FC	2	1	16	21	11	1			
New York City FC	3	6	1	10	13	12			
Columbus	4	6	1	13	9	14			
Orlando City	3	4	3	12	16	13			
New York	3	4	2	11	12	11			
Atlanta	1	9	1	8	9	8			
Chicago	2	4	4	10	12	13			
Cincinnati	2	7	2	8	10	17			
New England	2	8	1	2	11	25			

## Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	7	1	3	24	26	8
LA Galaxy	7	2	1	22	17	11
Portland	5	4	1	16	13	11
Seattle	5	1	4	19	13	11
FC Dallas	3	2	3	12	15	11
Minnesota United	4	3	2	14	15	11
San Jose	3	5	2	11	13	15
San Francisco	3	5	2	11	13	15
Portland	5	1	3	16	13	10
Seattle Sounders	2	3	4	10	18	18
Portland Timbers	2	3	4	10	18	18
Colorado	0	8	2	2	14	27

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

## Wednesday's game

Philadelphia 2, Cincinnati 0

## Friday's game

Vancouver 3, Colorado 2

## Saturday's game

New York 3, LA Galaxy 2

Houston 2, FC Dallas 1

Toronto FC 2, Orlando City 1

New York City FC 2, Montreal 0

Atlanta 1, New England 1

D.C. United 3, Columbus 1

Seattle 1, Minnesota United 1, tie

Los Angeles 1, Real Salt Lake 1, tie

San Jose 1, Cincinnati 0

## Sunday's game

Chicago 0, Los Angeles FC 0, tie

Atlanta 3, Sporting Kansas City 1, tie

## Wednesday, May 8

Toronto FC at Atlanta

LA Galaxy at Columbus

Portland at New York

New England at Chicago

## Friday, May 10

Portland at Vancouver

## Saturday, May 11

Philadelphia at Toronto FC

New York City FC at Atlanta

Los Angeles FC at Columbus

San Jose at New England

Minnesota United at Chicago

Real Salt Lake at Colorado

Houston at Seattle

## Sunday, May 12

Orlando City at Atlanta

Sporting Kansas City at D.C. United

## Sunday

Atlanta United 3, Sporting KC 1

Atlanta 1-2-3

KC 1-2-3

First half—1, Atlanta, Martinez, 3, 39th minute

Second half—2, Atlanta, Barco, 4, 47th; 3, Atlanta, Martinez, 4, 80th, 76th.

Goalies—Atlanta, Brad Guzan; Kansas City, Alex Kramnik; Kansas City, Tim Melia; Atlanta, Zoran Djordjevic.

Yellow Cards—Atlanta, Remedi, 66th, 81-85th.

## NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
North Carolina	2	0	0	6	10	2
Houston	1	0	2	5	8	6
Portland	1	0	2	5	8	6
Washington	1	1	2	5	8	6
Reign FC	0	3	1	2	5	10
Orlando	0	4	1	1	10	20

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

## Friday's games

Atlanta 1, Chicago 0

Saturday's games

Reign FC 0, Washington 0

San Jose 0, North Carolina 0

## Sunday's game

Houston 1, Orlando 0

## Saturday, May 11

Washington at Sky Blue FC

Houston at Utah

Portland at Orlando

## Sunday, May 12

North Carolina at Chicago

## Pro soccer

## Madrid Open

ATP, \$7.32 million (Masters 1000)

Purse: \$7.32 million (Premier)

Surface: Clay-Outdoor

## Singles

First Round

Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. Nick Kyrgios, Australia, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Felix Auger-Aliassime, Canada, def. Denis Shapovalov, Canada, 2-6, 7-6 (7), 6-4.

## Women

First Round

Naomi Osaka (1), Japan, def. Dominika Cibulkova, Slovakia, 6-2, 7-6 (5).

Viktoria Kuznetsov, Slovakia, def. Julia Goepfert, Germany, 7-5, 6-4.

Dominika Cibulkova, Slovakia, def. Alison Van Uytendaele, Belgium, 7-5, 7-6 (5).

Zheng Saisai, China, def. Wang Yafan, China, 7-5, 7-6 (3).

Anna Karolína Schmiedlová, Slovakia, def. Elise Mertens, Belgium, 7-5, 7-6 (5).

Kristina Mladenovic, France, def. Barbora Strýcová, Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-1.

Sara Sorribes Tormo, Spain, def. Lara Arruabarrena, Spain, 6-4, 6-4.

Sorana Cristea, Romania, def. Madison Keys (1), United States, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1.

Pauline Parmentier, France, def. Felicia Stefanescu, Romania, 6-4, 6-4.

Polina Krasnikova, Russia, 6-0, 6-4.

Karolina Pliskova (5), Czech Republic, def. Yulia Putintseva, Ukraine, 6-4, 6-4.

Garbine Muguruza, Spain, 7-5, 7-6 (2).

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## College baseball

## Sunday's scores

Albany (NY) 3, IU Brooklyn 1

Army at Lehigh, ppd.

Binghamton at UMBC, ppd.

Dartmouth 6, Cornell 1

Harvard at Brown, ppd.

Holy Cross at Lehigh, ppd.

James Madison 5, Jacksonville 3

Michigan 13, Maryland 1

Montana (N.) 1, Minnesota 0

Niagara 5, Fairfield 0

North Carolina 10, Virginia 1

Quinnipiac at Iona, ppd.

Rutgers at Penn St., cdd.

St. John's at Princeton, ppd.

## SOUTH

Alabama A&M 1, Penn 0

Arkansas 9, Kentucky 1

Calumet 17, Alabama 1

East Tennessee State 3, Jacksonville 3

Campbell 4, Charleston Southern 1

Charlotte 5, Middle Tennessee 0

Coastal Carolina 11, Louisiana-Lafayette 5

Duke 2, VCU 1

E. Kentucky 8, Tennessee Tech 1

Florida Gulf Coast at Stetson, cdd.

Florida State 15, Pittsburgh 6

Free Press 11, Columbus (Mo.) 6

Furman 9, VMI 5

Gardner-Webb 9, Clemson 7

Georgia Tech 14, W. Carolina 1

Houston Baptist 6, Nichols 3

Indiana 16-2, Auburn 3

James Madison 6, Towson 5, 10

Kentucky 4, Arkansas 3

Liberty 14, Kansas State 10



## HORSE RACING/SPORTS BRIEFS

# Owner appealing Derby decision

## Maximum Derby out of Preakness as West seeks to challenge DQ

By GARY B. GRAVES  
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Taken down as the Kentucky Derby winner, Maximum Security is now out of the Preakness.

Maximum Security's owner said Monday he will not run the horse in the middle jewel of the Triple Crown and will appeal the disqualification as Derby winner.

Gary West told The Associated Press by phone there is "really no need, not having an opportunity to run for the Triple Crown to run a horse back in two weeks."

The 1 1/4-mile Preakness is May 18 at Pimlico Race Course. Though shorter than the Kentucky Derby, the race requires a quick turnaround. West didn't want to burden his colt with the Triple Crown off the table.

"The horse will be better off long term with the rest," West said. "He ran a really good and a really hard race on Saturday."

"Really, there are a lot of other Grade 1 races the rest of the year for 3-year-olds. So we'll let him gather himself and point to one of the other races. I don't know which one that will be, but it will definitely not be the Preakness."

Maximum Security, the first to finish the muddy race Saturday, became the first Derby winner to be disqualified for interference. After an objection by two riders, stewards ruled the colt swerved out and impeded the path of several horses between the far and final turns. Country House, a 65-1 shot, was elevated to first.

Country House's status for the Preakness is unclear. That race would mark his fourth start in eight weeks.

Trainer Bill Mott has said

there's no rush to decide on whether he'll run in Baltimore. But he acknowledged the race's importance and added, "The challenge of the Triple Crown is that there's three races really close together, and it takes a champion."

The only other Derby disqualification was in 1968, and long after the race. First-place finisher Danzer's image tested positive for a prohibited medication, and Kentucky racing officials ordered the purse money to be redistributed. Forward Pass got the winner's share. A subsequent court challenge upheld the stewards' decision.

West has said he realizes the appeals process will take "months, if not years." He remains bothered that he was denied his request to view replays with stewards after the race.

"There's an extreme lack of transparency with the stewards," he said. "They will not talk to us until Thursday. So we didn't have any choice but to file an appeal. And we'll see where that goes."

Maximum Security was placed 17th of 19 horses after starting as the 9-2 second betting choice, ending his four-race winning streak.

Stewards cited the rule that calls for disqualification if a "leading horse or any other horse in a race swerves or is ridden to either side so as to interfere with, intimidate, or impede any other horse or jockey."

Chief steward Barbara Borden said in a news conference she and two other stewards interviewed riders and studied video replays during a 22-minute review after the finish. The stewards did not take questions from reporters.



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Luis Saez rides Maximum Security, right, across the finish line first against Flaxen Prat on Country House during the 145th running of the Kentucky Derby on Saturday. Country House was declared the winner after Maximum Security was disqualified for interference.



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Max Homa celebrates after winning the Wells Fargo Championship Sunday in Charlotte, N.C.

## Briefly

# Teen football phenom killed

Associated Press

VENICE, Ill. — A teen sports standout featured in a Sports Illustrated article about young athletes who would rule the future of sports has been fatally shot.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch quoted police as saying that Jaylon McKenzie, an East St. Louis eighth grader, was shot Saturday night at a party in Venice, Ill., about 5 miles northeast of St. Louis.

Police say they found McKenzie with serious wounds and he died at a hospital. A 15-year-old girl was in critical condition at a hospital. No arrests have been made.

McKenzie drew national attention when he caught five passes for 161 yards and 2 touchdowns at the NFL's 8th Grade All-American Game in Canton, Ohio, in August. He posted on social media that he had received football scholarship from the University of Missouri and University of Illinois. He told Sports Illustrated his dream was to play in the NFL and be a star in Los Angeles for the Chargers or Rams.

## Red Sox put Price on DL with tendinitis

BALTIMORE — Boston Red Sox left-hander David Price has been placed on the 10-day injured list because of tendinitis in his pitching elbow.

Boston announced the move Monday, a day ahead of Price's scheduled start at Baltimore.

The 35-year-old Price is 1-2 with a 3.75 ERA in six starts and has allowed three runs or fewer in his last four appearances.

The 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner with Tampa Bay, Price was slowed by elbow problems throughout 2017. He did not make his first start for Boston until May 29 due to a strained elbow and did not pitch for the Red Sox between July 22 and Sept. 17 because of

elbow inflammation.

He was 6-3 with a 3.38 ERA in 11 starts and five relief appearances, then rebounded to go 16-7 with a 3.58 ERA in 30 starts last year as Boston won the World Series.

## Kipchoge out to break marathon record

OXFORD, England — Eliud Kipchoge has funding from Britain's richest man for a bid to break the two-hour marathon barrier later this year.

The fastest marathon runner of all time announced plans for the record attempt during a visit to the track in Oxford where Roger Bannister ran the first sub-four-minute mile 65 years ago on Monday.

"I want to unlock that thought that there are limitations in the human being," Kipchoge told The Associated Press at the Ilffley Road track. "There are no barriers when you believe in yourself and try and trust in what you are doing."

The 34-year-old Olympic champion has gained the trust of Jim Ratcliffe, who founded chemicals group INEOS and is estimated by London-based Sunday Times Rich List to be worth \$28 billion.

## Homa wins Wells Fargo for first PGA victory

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Two years after Max Homa played only one Sunday in an entire PGA Tour season, he showed his mettle at Quail Hollow by closing with a 4-under 67 to pull away from the field and win the Wells Fargo Championship.

Homa began the back nine with two birdies to build a four-shot lead and didn't make any mistakes until it only affected the final margin.

Joel Dahmen saved par with a tough chip over the creek for a 70 and finished three shots behind.

Homa, who won the NCAA title at Cal in 2013, won for the first time in his 68th start as a pro. The victory gets him into the PGA Championship in two weeks at Bethpage Black and the Masters next April.

Justin Rose (68) finished alone in third and moved ahead of Brooks Koepka to No. 2 in the world.

In other golf news:

■ Sei Young Kim overcame a rough start to win the LPGA MEDIHEAL Championship at cold and windy Lake Merced, outlasting Bronte Law and Jeonjeun Lee with a birdie on the first hole of a playoff.

Kim won for the eighth time on the LPGA Tour, improving to 4-0 in playoffs.

■ Scott McCarron won the In-sperity Invitational for his 10th PGA Tour Champions victory and second in three weeks.

The 53-year-old McCarron held off Scott Parel by two strokes, closing with a 5-under 67 to finish at 17-under 199 and match Fred Couples (2010) for the best score since the event moved to The Woodlands Country Club.

## Source: Cavs interview set with Messina

CLEVELAND — The Cavaliers experimented with a successful European coach a few years ago with mixed results. They may try it again.

Cleveland has scheduled an interview this week with San Antonio Spurs assistant Ettore Messina, a person familiar with the Cavs' coaching search said Monday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team is keeping details of its search confidential.

The 59-year-old Messina has worked on coach Gregg Popovich's staff in San Antonio since 2014 and is widely regarded as one of the NBA's top assistants.

## NFL



JIM MONE/AP

Minnesota Vikings rookie Austin Cutting talks with reporters after rookie minicamp workouts began at the team's complex on Friday, in Eagan, Minn. Cutting, the first Air Force player drafted in 20 years, will have to sort out his required military service before pursuing a pro football career.

## Career: Cutting still must fulfill minimum two years active duty

### FROM BACK PAGE

Continuing further into the NFL calendar will depend on a plan for fulfillment of the minimum of two years of active duty for all cadets upon graduation, which is on May 30. Two years ago, the Defense Department rescinded a policy that previously allowed service academy athletes to delay their active duty to pursue a pro sports career. That undoubtedly steered teams away from drafting Jalen Robinette, the all-time leading receiver for Air Force.

"Going to the academy, serving comes first," Cutting said.

On Monday, President Donald Trump said he is looking into offering a waiver that would allow service academy athletes to play professional sports immediately upon graduation.

Trump made the announcement Monday while presenting the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy to the U.S. Military Academy football team during a Rose Garden ceremony.

He said that, under the plan he envisions, athletes would "serve their time after they're finished with professional sports."

Vikings general manager Rick Spielman has been speaking with academy officials about options Cutting might have to meet his requirement while simultaneously trying to make the team. "It's not, 'OK, the Air Force was done, and now it's time for the NFL,'" Cutting said, adding: "It's decisions that are made above my pay grade, and they'll help me along the way."

Cutting, who picked up his long snapping trade at Central High School in Keller, Texas, in the Dallas area, has been majoring in management. He's an acquisitions officer, the personnel designated to serve as the government's business managers and technical experts in buying everything from computers to helicopters for forces around the world.

"I've heard everybody who

does it loves it," Cutting said.

The chosen few who make it to the NFL usually do, too. Even simply taking the call from the Vikings last weekend, at home with family and friends, was one of those moments Cutting will always remember no matter where his career winds up taking him.

"When it actually happens, you can't really describe it," Cutting said. "It's a great feeling."

The Vikings have signed nine of their draft picks, with first round center Garrett Bradbury, sixth round cornerback Kris Boyd and Cutting the only ones still without a finalized contract. Unsigned players are typically given a special injury waiver to participate in offseason workouts until their deals are done.

In addition to the 12 draft picks and 10 rookie free agents the Vikings acquired last weekend, seven other players on the 90-man roster, whether a practice squad member last season or a signing from the defunct Alliance of American Football, were eligible to participate in the practices at team headquarters.

Then there's a group of 37 players who were invited on a try-out basis, seeking to become the next Marcus Sherels or Adam Thielen.

Sherels became the franchise's all-time leading punt returner before signing with the New Orleans Saints this year. Thielen recently signed a \$64 million contract after a second Pro Bowl selection. Both Sherels (2010) and Thielen (2013) needed a successful rookie minicamp to even make the summer roster.

"We're looking for guys that, number one, are good people, and number two, they have to have athletic ability," coach Mike Zimmer said. "Come out and do what they're being coached to do."

Among the tryout players were former UAB safety Mar'Sean Diggs, the brother of Vikings wide receiver Stefon Diggs.

# Browns rookie punter has catchy nickname, big leg

'Scottish Hammer' never expected to be drafted

BY TOM WITHERS  
Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Jamie Gillan already has the catchy nickname and ready-for-Hollywood back story. He is no ordinary rookie.

With his long hair pulled back into a ponytail and a thick Scottish accent unaffected by his college days in Arkansas, the Cleveland Browns punter looks as if he just walked off the set of "Game of Thrones."

No dragons, but there is a castle in his background.

"At boarding school," he said.

"It looked a lot like Hogwarts."

And yes, Gillan recently ruined three official NFL footballs because he kicked them too hard.

That's "The Scottish Hammer." Born in the Highlands of Scotland, Gillan moved to the U.S. as a 16-year-old when his father, who works in anti-submarine warfare for the Royal Armed Forces, was relocated to Maryland. Gillan played rugby and soccer as a kid and acknowledged not knowing much about American football until attending a high school game in Leonardtown, Md., which coincidentally is the hometown of Browns general manager John Dorsey.

Unaware at the time, Gillan saw his future.

"I watched a kicker, he didn't make the extra point, like it hit the back of the offensive lineman," Gillan said. "I went up to the coach after the game and I told him I had a rugby-playing background, and I've been able to do torpedo punts since I was 8 years old and I can do all three for you if you wanted. We went out the next day and he literally told me, 'OK, make the ball spiral,' so I made it spiral. And then I kicked a long field goal in front of him and then he just said, 'All right, you're on the team.'"

Gillan wound up playing in a handful of games before his life would take another unexpected turn.

A friend found a Facebook posting from Arkansas-Pine Bluff, which was looking for a punter after one of the school's recruits decommitted. Gillan put together some game film and sent it to the school, which offered him a full scholarship. The idea of kicking at a Division I program with all its perks was irresistible. "Free weight room. Free balls to kick. Free food. I'm happy," Gillan said, recalling his whirlwind recruitment. "That's kind of how it went."

There was one minor problem. "I'm not going to lie to you guys," he told reporters Saturday during the Browns' rookie minicamp. "I did not hear of the state of Arkansas in my life be-



RON SCHWANE/AP

Browns punter Jamie Gillan loosens up during rookie minicamp in Berea, Ohio. While preparing for the draft, Gillan kicked so hard he ruined three regulation NFL footballs, enhancing the story behind "The Scottish Hammer".

fore they called."

He did some quick research about his new home.

"On the plane," he said. "I pulled out the map and I saw Pine Bluff and said, 'Oh, this looks like a decent place.'"

Gillan handled punting and kicking duties at Arkansas-Pine Bluff, averaging 43.7 yards per punt as a junior and dropping 27 punts inside the opponents' 20-yard line during his senior season. He also set the school record with a 52-yard field goal.

The likable Gillan caught the eye of several pro teams and then spent the winter in Arkansas working out and perfecting his craft with the hopes of being drafted.

In January, he bought four NFL balls — "they're like 100 bucks apiece" — and was kicking in cold weather when his big plans

began to deflate — literally.

"I was kicking them and I could hear the air coming out of them, three out of the four," he said. "I was like, 'Oh, man.' So I treated the last one with a lot of care until the Browns sent me some footballs, which was awesome."

Gillan never expected to be drafted, but he never imagined living in America or Arkansas either.

Now he is in Cleveland, where he will compete in training camp with Browns incumbent punter Britton Colquhoun, a Pro Bowl alternate last season.

"I did a lot of research on him before I came here," Gillan said. "He's such a great punter, great with technique and fundamentals. With him going into his 10th year, what better opportunity than to learn from someone like that?"

perstown, N.Y.



MLB

# Cubs win 7th straight, move atop Central

By JAY COHEN  
Associated Press

**CHICAGO** — By the time Kris Bryant's drive sailed over the wall in center field, that tough start for the Chicago Cubs was long gone.

Brushed away by one dazzling stretch.

Bryant hit his fourth career grand slam in Chicago's six-run eighth inning, and the Cubs pounded the St. Louis Cardinals 13-5 on Sunday night for their season-high seventh consecutive victory.

Willson Contreras, Anthony Rizzo and David Bote each drove in two runs, helping the Cubs leapfrog the Cardinals for first place in the NL Central. Ben Zobrist had two hits and made two nice plays in left field as Chicago completed its first three-game sweep of St. Louis since September 2017.

Since opening the season with eight losses in 11 games, the Cubs have been on a roll. They have won 16 of 20 for the first time since they went 16-4 in August



NAM Y. HUN/AP

**The Cubs' Kris Bryant hits a grand slam during the eighth inning Sunday against the Cardinals in Chicago. The Cubs won 13-5.**

2016.

"We've really turned it around since then," Bryant said. "Our pitchers have been great. Our at-

bats have been great. Defense, everything has really been clicking for us. This is the type of baseball that's super fun to be a part of."

The crowd of 36,499 chanted "Sweep! Sweep! Sweep!" after Bryant connected with two hits in the eighth, belting a drive to center off Dominic Leone for his fourth homer.

Paul DeJong and Marcell Ozuna went deep in the ninth for St. Louis, which lost its season-high fourth straight game. Adam Wainwright (3-3) pitched five-plus innings while dropping to 11-4 in 26 career games at Wrigley Field.

"You have to tip your hat to their hitters for beating me to the spot on a couple of those pitches," Wainwright said. "They're playing good ball right now."

The Cardinals got at least one hit in seven innings, but left nine runners on base. Jose Quintana (4-1) also received some help from his defense.

Contreras threw out Paul Goldschmidt attempting to steal second in the first. The versatile Zobrist cut down Matt Carpenter trying to go from first to third on Goldschmidt's one-out single in

the third, then made a diving grab to rob Yadier Molina of a hit with a runner on first in the fourth.

"He's a good outfielder," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said. "He's been a good outfielder for a long time."

Contreras' ninth homer helped Chicago build a 3-0 lead. St. Louis pulled within one on Molina's two-run double in the sixth, but Kolten Wong left runners on the corners when he bounced out on Quintana's 103rd and final pitch.

The Cubs poured it on with 10 runs in their last three at-bats. Rizzo doubled in two runs and Contreras added an RBI single in the sixth. Zobrist singled home Albert Almora Jr. in the seventh, and Bote and Almora each doubled in a run before Bryant went deep in the eighth.

"They swept it this time. When it comes around, we're going to try to do the same thing to them," Wainwright said. "It's a good series for them. It's an unfortunate series for us. But I really, really like where this team's headed."

## Roundup

# Renfroe stuns Jansen, Dodgers to avoid sweep

Associated Press

**SAN DIEGO** — With one mighty swing against Kenley Jansen, Hunter Renfroe hit a grand slam that prevented San Diego from being swept by the Los Angeles Dodgers and finally gave Padres fans a chance to roar.

Renfroe's pinch-hit slam with two outs in the ninth inning lifted the Padres to a thrilling 8-5 victory Sunday. It was his fifth career slam and second walkoff homer.

Renfroe didn't even have to follow the flight of the ball to know it was gone, driven into the balcony on the third level of the Western Metal Supply Co. Building in the left-field corner. He raised his arms, dropped his bat, pointed to the Padres' dugout and began his trot. He was doused with two coolers of water by jubilant teammates as he crossed the plate.

"I had to go back and watch what I did, too. I didn't know where the ball went. I didn't even look at it," Renfroe said.

The Padres appeared headed for their third straight one-run loss to the Dodgers — San Diego had an early lead in all three games — before Renfroe homered on a 93 mph cutter.

"It's incredible. You can't say how it feels unless you've done it," Renfroe said. "This is my second walkoff home run and there's nothing like it in this world. You can hit a home run in the first inning, second inning, it's nothing compared to a walkoff, in this situation against the Dodgers."

There were thousands of Dodgers fans in the sellout crowd of 44,473, but Padres fans finally got to cheer at the end.

The Padres started the winning rally with three straight singles off Jansen (2-1), who was trying for his third save in three games. Eric Hosmer hit a leadoff single to left and Manuel Margot and Wil Myers

followed with bunt singles. Jansen struck out Greg Garcia and got rookie Francisco Mejia to pop up before Renfroe's slam.

"That's as fun as one we've had at any point in time in the last couple of years for sure," manager Andy Green said. "That's a big win. He's a tough guy to come back against. That's a tremendous swing from Hunter. It seems like every time he pinch hits with the bases loaded, he does something like that. He loves those moments."

**Astros 10, Angels 4:** Alex Bregman hit a grand slam, his third homer during a two-game series in Monterrey, Mexico, and Houston blew out Los Angeles for the second straight day.

**Pirates 5, Athletics 3:** Starling Marte hit a game-ending three-run homer in the 13th inning, rallying host Pittsburgh past Oakland after the Athletics scored twice in the top of the inning.

**Brewers 3, Mets 2:** Christian Yelich homered in his return to the lineup and Zach Davies pitched into the eighth inning as host Milwaukee completed a three-game sweep of New York.

Yelich, the NL MVP, was back in the starting lineup after missing five consecutive games with low back soreness. He hit a two-run, 440-foot homer off Jason Vargas (1-2) that caromed off the third deck in right and gave Milwaukee a 3-0 lead in the third inning.

**Yankees 4, Twins 1 (8, rain):** Domingo German kept delivering on a wet, raw afternoon, tying for the major league lead with his sixth win as host New York stopped Minnesota.

**Red Sox 9, White Sox 2:** Xander Bogaerts hit a grand slam in Boston's seven-run eighth inning against host Chicago.

Mitch Moreland went 2-for-3 with two RBIs, and J.D. Martinez and Eduardo Nunez each had an RBI single as Boston



GREGORY BULL/AP

**The Padres' Hunter Renfroe, center, celebrates with teammates after hitting a walkoff grand slam during the ninth inning Sunday against the Dodgers in San Diego.**

won for the sixth time in seven games to move within a game of .500 at 17-18.

**Tigers 5, Royals 2 (10):** Brandon Dixon hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning to lift host Detroit over Kansas City.

**Mariners 10, Indians 0:** Rookie Erik Swanson didn't give up a hit until the sixth inning and got his first win, and Jay Bruce belted a grand slam as visiting Seattle snapped a six-game losing streak.

Making his fourth career start, Swanson (1-3) lost his no-hit bid with two outs in the sixth when Cleveland's Jose Ramirez doubled.

**Rangers 10, Blue Jays 2:** Rougned Odor and Asdrubal Cabrera each homered and combined for seven RBIs, and host Texas rolled past Toronto.

**Phillies 7, Nationals 1:** Zach Eflin pitched seven strong innings and Rhys Hoskins drove in a pair of runs to lead host Philadelphia past Washington.

Cesar Hernandez added two doubles for

the NL East-leading Phillies, who have won six of nine.

**Rockies 8, Diamondbacks 7:** Raimel Tapia hit a big, bases-loaded triple and scored the go-ahead run during a five-run eighth inning, and host Colorado beat Arizona.

The rally salvaged the finale of the three-game series and ended Arizona's six-game road winning streak. Eduardo Escobar and Blake Swihart homered for the Diamondbacks.

**Giants 6, Reds 5:** Brandon Crawford delivered a tiebreaking, pinch-hit homer in the ninth inning to help San Francisco erase a four-run first-inning deficit and beat host Cincinnati.

**Braves 3, Marlins 1 (10):** Ender Inciarte faked a bunt and instead slapped an opposite-field RBI double down the line to break a 10th-inning tie, and Atlanta completed a three-game sweep at Miami.

## NHL PLAYOFFS

## Blues stun Bishop, Stars in Game 6 victory

St. Louis forces decisive showdown on home ice

By STEPHEN HAWKINS  
Associated Press

DALLAS — Colton Parayko was shooting to score for the St. Louis Blues, and delivered a stunning blow to the Dallas Stars even without getting the puck in the net.

Parayko's hard shot from the slot hit Ben Bishop's left shoulder, knocking the goalie onto his back and deflecting the puck to deep in the circle. Alexander Steen took a shot from there that was redirected by Jaden Schwartz over the still laid-out goalie in a 4-1 victory to force Game 7 in the second-round Western Conference semifinal series.

"That's a hard shot. A really hard shot. Shoot the puck, right? It's a great play by [Steen] to put it right back on the net," St. Louis captain Alex Pietrangolo said. "Great job Schwartz. He's been around that all series long and keeps getting rewarded."

Schwartz's eighth goal of the playoffs with 12:23 left made it 3-1, and was the first of two goals by the Blues in a 33-second span.

Bishop was tended to by a trainer and initially stayed in the game, but a switch was made soon after when Sammy Blais, playing his first postseason game, got a slap shot past him. Stars coach Jim Montgomery said Bishop was fine, pointing out that he had stayed in the game before Anton Khudobin got his first action of the postseason.

While St. Louis maintained possession of the puck while Bishop was down, Stars defenseman John Klingberg thought there should have been a whistle to stop play.



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

A shot by the St. Louis Blues' Jaden Schwartz scores as Stars goaltender Ben Bishop lies on the ice after a hard shot from Colton Parayko hit the goalie in the shoulder and knocked him onto his back during the third period of Sunday's Game 6 in Dallas.

"We can't change anything right now," Klingberg said. "We didn't play good enough to win. It's not like we're focusing on that right now."

Blues coach Craig Berube said officials "don't blow the whistle when you have pos-

session... His mask was still on, so that's the reason."

Pietrangolo scored only 63 seconds into the game and David Perron also had a goal for the Blues, who will be on home ice for the deciding game Tuesday night.

The Central Division rivals also went to a Game 7 when they met in the second round three years ago. That series finale was played in Dallas, where the Blues scored three times in the first period and went on to a 6-1 win.

## Hurricanes have time to mull goalie decision

By CHIP ALEXANDER  
The News & Observer  
(Raleigh, N.C.)

If you're Rod Brind'Amour, what do you do?

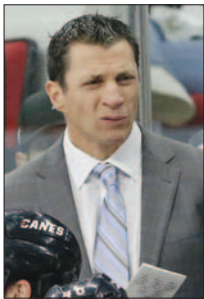
The Carolina Hurricanes coach could have an interesting decision to make as the Canes plan ahead for the Eastern Conference finals. Goalies Petr Mrazek and Curtis McElhinney both have been very good and one has to be the starter, although the Canes' opponent

— either the Boston Bruins or Columbus Blue Jackets — and a starting date have not been set.

Mrazek started the first nine games of the playoffs and was vital in knocking off the Washington Capitals in the first round. But he abruptly left Game 2 of the second-round series against the New York Islanders with a lower-body injury, causing McElhinney, as he put it, to "Just grab your helmet and go."

McElhinney stopped all 17 shots he faced and was the winner as the Canes took a 2-1 victory at the Barclays Center in New York. With Mrazek out, he was back in net as the Canes closed out the series sweep against the Islanders with a pair of 5-2 wins at PNC Arena.

Mrazek has been on the ice, taking shots and getting in work-



GERRY BROOME/AP

Carolina coach Rod Brind'Amour has an interesting decision to make between Petr Mrazek and Curtis McElhinney as starting goalkeeper for the Hurricanes in the Eastern Conference finals.

outs, and should be ready when practice resumes Monday. Suddenly, McElhinney has won three straight. What now?

"Petr and I kind of flip-flopped all year long," McElhinney said after the Game 4 win over the Isles. "He was the hot hand heading into the playoffs, so he earned

that right to get the start in goal in that first round and, you know, he's been phenomenal in all the games he's played so far.

"My opportunity comes at his expense, unfortunately. I just go in there, be the calm presence and try to give the guys an opportunity to win."

Mrazek and the Canes gutted out the seven-game series against the Capitals to begin the playoffs. There were highs and lows — the Caps with a 6-0 home-ice win in Game 5 — before the double-overtime epic that was Game 7 at Capital One Arena in Washington.

In a final showdown between Mrazek and the Caps' Braden Holtby, Mrazek stopped a blistering one-timer by Alex Ovechkin in the first overtime and it was Holtby who blinked in the second, giving up the winning goal to Brock McGinn. As the Canes' celebration began, Mrazek appeared to trip as he skated toward McGinn and the mass of players and went sliding chest-first across the ice, not that he minded.

From that high, there was the sight of Mrazek laboring to the bench in Game 2 against the Islanders, slamming his stick as he left the game. It could have been a turning point in the series but

McElhinney smoothly slid into the crease and got the job done, again.

"Mac was great," forward Teuvo Teravainen said, echoing what so many players said.

The McElhinney story, from waiver-wire claim to playoff goalie, continues. He has a 1.56 goals-against average and .947 save percentage, stopping 71 of 75 shots. He was the oldest goalie at 35, to make his first career playoff start. There's much to like.

"I don't need to say anything. It's obvious the caliber of goalie he is, the talent he is, the mind he has," Canes captain Justin Williams said. "He's solid everywhere you look."

Mrazek had two shutouts in the nine playoff games, beating the Islanders 1-0 in Game 1 with several high-quality saves, setting a tone for the series. He has a 2.22 GAA and .913 save percentage in the playoffs, winning numbers.

"He's been great, all year, and obviously now in the playoffs he's come up huge," Brind'Amour said after the shutout over the Isles.

Boston and Columbus play again, with the Bruins a win away from wrapping up the series and the Blue Jackets wanting to force a Game 7. Then for the Canes, it's on to the Eastern finals, and Mrazek or McElhinney.

## Scoreboard

Conference semifinals  
(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Boston 3, Columbus 2	OT
Columbus 3, Boston 2	OT
Boston 4, Columbus 1	
<b>Saturday</b> at Columbus	
<b>Monday</b> at Columbus	
<b>x-Wednesday</b> , May 8 at Boston	
<b>Carolina 4, N.Y. Islanders 0</b>	
Carolina 1, N.Y. Islanders 0	OT
Carolina 2, N.Y. Islanders 1	
Carolina 5, Islanders 2	
Carolina 5, N.Y. Islanders 2	
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
St. Louis 3, Dallas 2	
Dallas 4, St. Louis 2	
St. Louis 4, Dallas 3	
Dallas 4, St. Louis 2	
Dallas 2, St. Louis 1	
<b>Sunday</b> , St. Louis 4, Dallas 1	
<b>Tuesday</b> , May 7 at St. Louis	
<b>AFN-Sports</b> , 2 a.m. <b>Wednesday</b> CET: 4a.m.	
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>NYT</b>	
San Jose 5, Colorado 2	
Colorado 4, San Jose 3	
San Jose 4, Colorado 2	
Colorado 3, San Jose 0	
<b>Saturday</b> , San Jose 2, Colorado 1	
<b>Monday</b> at Colorado	
<b>x-Wednesday</b> , May 8 at San Jose	

Sunday  
Blues 4, Stars 1

St. Louis	1	1	2-4
Dallas	1	0-1	
<b>First Period</b> —1. St. Louis, Pietrangolo 2 (Edmundson, Schwartz); 1:03 2. Dallas, Seguin 4 (Benn, Zuccarello); 11:35 (pp).			
<b>Shots on Goal</b> —St. Louis 10-4-11—25. Dallas 7-9-23.			
<b>Power-play opportunities</b> —St. Louis 0 of 4; Dallas 1 of 3.			
<b>Goalies</b> —St. Louis, Binnington 7-5 (23 shots-2 saves). Dallas, Khudobin 0-0 (5-5). Bishop 7-5 (20-16).			
<b>A</b> —16:37e (18,532). <b>T</b> —2:30.			

## NBA PLAYOFFS

## Scoreboard

## Conference semifinals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

**Eastern Conference**  
**Milwaukee 2, Boston 1**  
 Boston 112, Milwaukee 90  
 Milwaukee 123, Boston 102  
 Milwaukee 123, Boston 116  
**Wednesday at Boston**  
**Wednesday at Milwaukee**  
**x-Friday, May 10:** at Boston  
**x-Monday, May 13:** at Milwaukee  
**Philadelphia 2, Toronto 2**  
 Toronto 108, Philadelphia 95  
 Philadelphia 94, Toronto 89  
 Philadelphia 116, Toronto 95  
**Sunday: Toronto 121, Philadelphia 96**  
**Tuesday:** at Toronto  
**APN-Sports, 2 a.m. Wednesday CET; 9 a.m. Wednesday JKT**  
**Thursday at Philadelphia**  
**x-Sunday, May 12:** at Toronto

**Western Conference**  
**Golden State 2, Houston 1**  
 Golden State 104, Houston 100  
 Golden State 115, Houston 109  
 Houston 126, Golden State 121, OT  
**Monday:** at Houston  
**Wednesday:** at Golden State  
**x-Friday, May 10:** at Houston  
**x-Sunday, May 12:** at Golden State  
**Portland 2, Denver 2**  
 Denver 121, Portland 113  
 Portland 97, Denver 90  
 Portland 140, Denver 137, 4OT  
**Sunday:** Denver 116, Portland 112  
**Tuesday:** at Denver  
**APN-Sports, 6:30 a.m. Wednesday CET; 11:30 a.m. Wednesday JKT**  
**Thursday at Portland**  
**x-Sunday, May 12:** at Denver

## Sunday

## Nuggets 116, Trail Blazers 112

**DENVER** — Craig 1-4 0-0 3, Millsap 6-10 7-8 21, Jokic 8-15 4-4 21, Murray 10-20 11-13 34, Harris 6-14 2-2 14, Plumlee 2-9 0-2, Morris 1-6 0-0 2, Beasley 2-6 1-1 6, Barton 4-14 0-11, Totals 49-92 25-38 116.

**PORTLAND** — Harkless 1-5 2-2 4, Aminu 10-6 7-19, Kantar 2-5 1-2 5, Lillard 9-22 8-11 28, McCollum 10-20 5-6 25, Collins 2-5 0-0 4, Curry 6-9 0-0 16, Hood 3-4 0-0 7, Turner 0-2 0-0 0, Totals 39-82 22-28 112.

**Denver** 29 28 27 32-116  
**Portland** 31 30 14 35-112

Three-Point Goals—Denver 11-25 (Murray 3-7, Barton 3-8, Millsap 2-3, Jokic 1-1, Beasley 1-2, Craig 1-2, Harris 0-2), Portland 12-28 (Curry 4-6, McCollum 4-8, Lillard 2-7, Hood 1-1, Aminu 1-4, Harkless 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Denver 45 (Jokic 12), Portland 43 (Kantar 10). Assists—Denver 27 (Jokic 11), Portland 18 (Lillard 7). Total Fouls—Denver 22, Portland 27. Technicals—Collins, A.—20, 146 (19,393).

## Raptors 101, 76ers 96

**TORONTO** — Leonard 13-20 8-12 39, Siakam 2-10 5-9, Gasol 7-13 0-0 16, Lowry 6-13 0-0 14, Green 1-4 8-8 11, Powell 0-1 0-0 0, Ibaka 6-12 0-0 12, VanVleet 0-2 0-0 0, McCaw 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 35-76 21-60 101.

**PHILADELPHIA** — Butler 9-18 8-10 29, Harris 7-23 0-0 16, Embiid 7-7 7-10 11, Simmons 5-10 2-10, Redick 6-9 3-3 19, Ennis III 3-8 0-0 9, Scott 3-3 0-0 0, Monroe 1-4 0-0 3, Marjanovic 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 33-82 18-25 96.

**Toronto** 24 23 28 26-101  
**Philadelphia** 21 24 30 21-96

Three-Point Goals—Toronto 10-31 (Leonard 5-7, Lowry 2-6, Gasol 2-7, Green 1-3, Powell 0-1, Ibaka 0-3, Siakam 0-4), Philadelphia 10-30 (Embiid 4-8, Simmons 4-8, Butler 1-2, Redick 1-2, Ennis III 3-7, Harris 2-13, Green 0-1, Scott 0-3). Fouled Out—13. Rebounds—Toronto 43 (Leonard 14), Philadelphia 45 (Butler 11). Assists—Toronto 19 (Lowry 7), Philadelphia 21 (Embiid 7). Total Fouls—Toronto 24, Philadelphia 23. Technicals—Monroe, A.—20, 639 (20,478).

## Nuggets even series with Blazers

Jokic tallies second straight triple-double, fourth of postseason

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Denver Nuggets have been good at bouncing back all season. Not even a draining four-overtime defeat could keep this team down.

Nikola Jokic had 21 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists for his second straight triple-double and fourth of the playoffs, and the Nuggets evened their Western Conference semifinal series against the Portland Trail Blazers at 2-2 with a 116-112 victory Sunday.

It was less than 48 hours after Portland's epic 140-137 quadruple-overtime victory to take a 2-1 lead in the series. It was only the second game in playoff history that went to four OTs. The other was in 1953.

"I think it's not quitting. We have a lot of competitive guys who don't want to lose. I think we don't want to lose more than we like to win — which is weird," Jokic said. "We just didn't want to have the excuse that we lost because of four overtimes, because we were tired."

Jamal Murray led all scorers with 34 points and made all 11 free throws for the Nuggets, who handed Portland its first postseason loss at home this season. The series now heads back to Denver for Game 5.

CJ McCollum had 29 points and Damian Lillard added 28 for the Blazers, who missed out on taking a 3-1 lead in a conference semifinals for the first time since 2000.

"Our guys are tough. We're resilient," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "I mean, to come in here and win this game 36 hours after losing in four overtimes, speaks to just how tough we are."

Malone cited regular-season statistics to back up his claims: Denver was 12-1 in the second game of back-to-backs, best in the NBA. The Nuggets were good in close games, too: 13-3 in games decided by three points or less, he said.

"We just said to ourselves, 'If we win today then the last game doesn't really matter that much,'" Jokic said. "Yes we played a four-overtime game, it was exhausting, but we won tonight so the last game doesn't really matter."



Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, right, shoots around Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic during Game 4 of their second-round playoff series on Sunday in Portland, Ore. The Nuggets won 116-112.

Craig Mitchell/Dyer/AP

Denver outscored the Blazers 27-14 in the third quarter to take an 87-77 lead in the fourth. Malik Beasley kicked off the final period with a three-pointer for the Nuggets.

Rodney Hood's three-pointer got the Blazers within 110-107 with 52 seconds left and Lillard's layup got the Blazers even closer at 112-110 with 7.7 seconds to go.

But Murray's free throws gave Denver a four-point lead. McCollum hit a long jumper

that after a video replay was ruled a two and Denver prevailed.

"It is disappointing. You go up 3-1 and you have a lot of momentum and obviously that would be a great position to be in. But they're a good team, they came out and played well," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "We had a bad third quarter and that kind of made the difference. We made a good comeback, but now it's a three-game series."

## Leonard, Raptors top 76ers

By ROB MAADDI  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Kawhi Leonard got some help from his teammates to stay close and then finished it off himself.

Leonard scored 39 points, including a clutch three-pointer with 1:01 left, and the Toronto Raptors beat the Philadelphia 76ers 101-96 on Sunday to even the Eastern Conference semifinal series at 2-2.

"I just really growing up learning from great players, I was fortunate enough to be on some good teams early," Leonard said, "so I was able to see defenses and go on deep playoff runs and I feel that helped me out today."

MarC Gasol scored 16, Kyle Lowry had 14 and the Raptors rebounded after consecutive losses to reclaim home-court advantage.

Jimmy Butler scored 29 and JJ Redick

had 19 for Philadelphia. The 76ers are trying to reach the conference finals for the first time since Allen Iverson led them to the NBA Finals in 2001.

Toronto, which earned the No. 2 seed after winning 58 games, has been bounced out in the series two straight seasons.

Joel Embiid struggled after scoring 33 points in Philadelphia's 21-point victory in Game 3. The All-Star center played through an illness and only had 11. Sixers coach Brett Brown said Embiid texted him early in the morning saying he wasn't sure if he could play.

"To his credit, he willed his way through it," Brown said.

Playing before a raucous crowd, the Sixers failed to take control of the series and now must win at least one more game on the road to advance.

"We got humbled," Butler said.



Chris Szagola/AP

The Raptors' Kawhi Leonard, left, holds the ball away from the 76ers' Jimmy Butler during Game 4 of their second-round playoff series on Sunday in Philadelphia. Leonard scored 39 points in Toronto's 101-96 victory.



## SPORTS

NFL

## Long shot

Air Force's Cutting takes 1st step toward potential pro career

BY DAVE CAMPBELL  
Associated Press

**L**ong snappers are the afterthoughts of the NFL Draft. Players from the service academies, on track to join the military and not pro sports, are largely ignored.

Still, here was Austin Cutting, a seventh-round pick out of the Air Force Academy, sharpening his specialist skills in Friday's rookie minicamp with the Minnesota Vikings and taking the first step toward what would be an unlikely, complicated and potentially inspiring career in the league.

"It was just good to be out here for the first time," Cutting said, "so I loved it."

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## Inside:

■ Cleveland rookie punter 'The Scottish Hammer' never imagined future in NFL, Page 27

Vikings rookie Austin Cutting became the first Air Force player drafted in 20 years when Minnesota took the long snapper in the seventh round.

Jim Mone/AP



Jokic's triple-double helps Denver tie series » Page 31

